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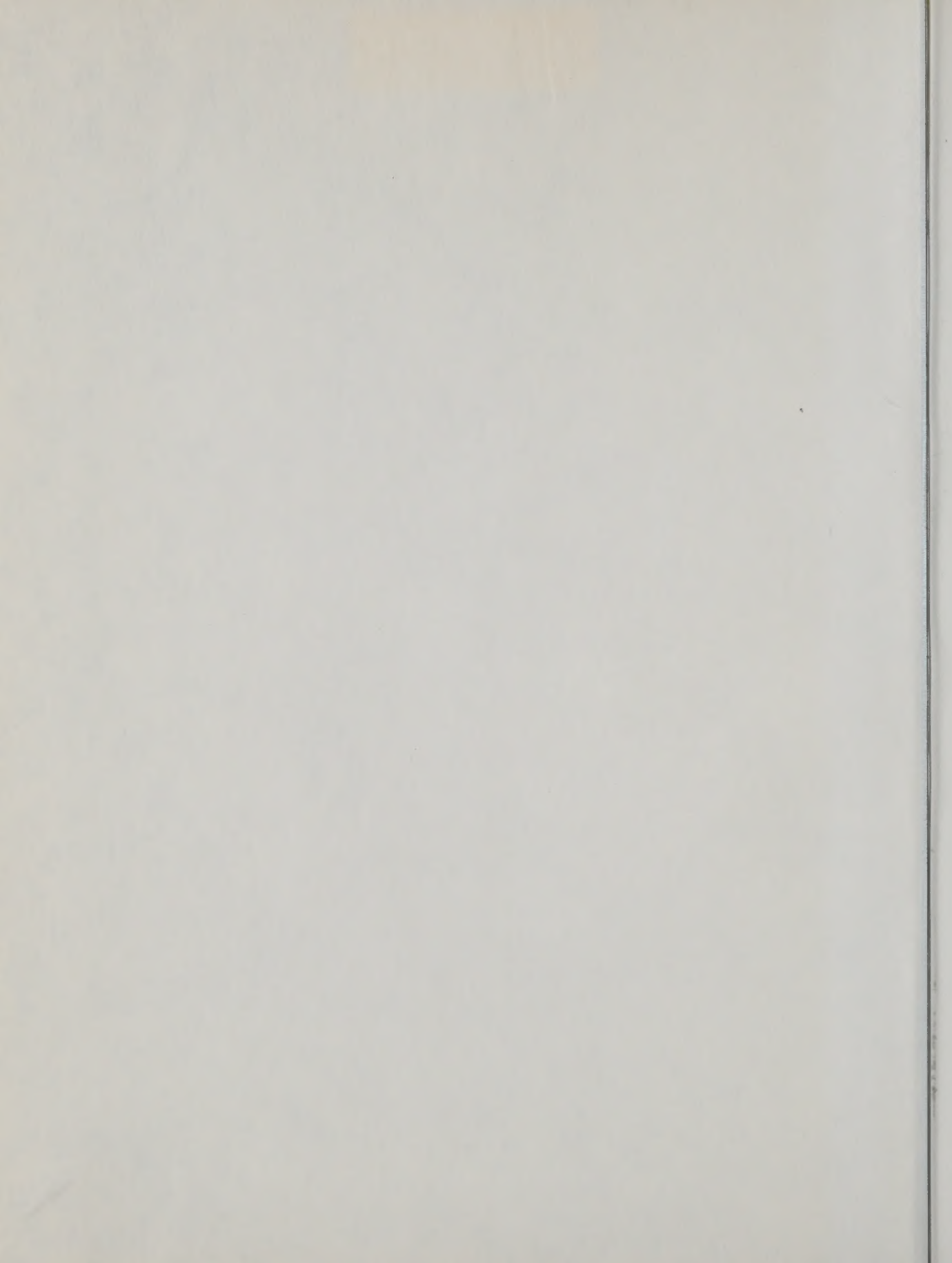
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HISTORY OF  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
1888-1900

by  
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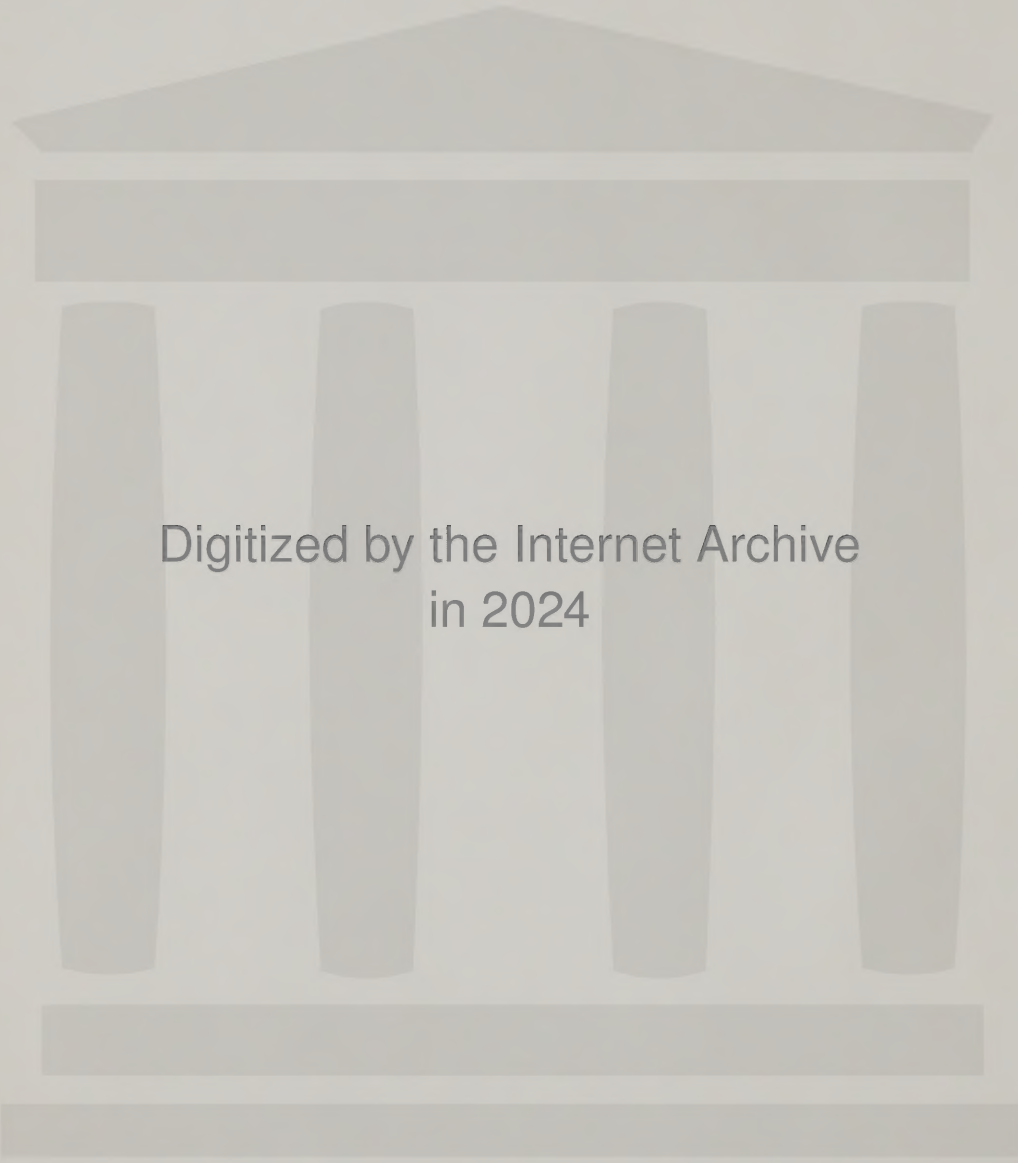
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1955

No. 13

GENEALOGICAL  
PUBLICATIONS  
*Of the*  
National Genealogical Society

HISTORY OF  
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
1903-1953

*Special Pub.*  
Compiled By  
JOHN R. NICHOLS, M.D.

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NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY  
December 1953 — March 1955

O. KENNETH BAKER, *President*  
ROBERTA P. WAKEFIELD, *Editor*  
L. WORRICK MCFEE, *Executive Secretary*

Price — \$1.00; 75 cents to members

1975

1975

# GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

National Genealogical Society

HISTORY OF

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1893-1953

Compiled by

JOHN R. SUTTON, M.D.

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Published by the National Genealogical Society

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# HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1903-1953

Compiled by JOHN B. NICHOLS, M.D.

## INTRODUCTION

The National Genealogical Society was organized in Washington, D. C., in the year 1903, the preliminary first meeting was held on April 24, and the formal organization effected on November 14. In 1946 the then president of the Society, Mr. Milton Rubincam, conceived a project for a celebration in 1953 of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Society, to include the preparation and publication of a history of its first semicentury. A committee for the purpose was established on October 5, 1946, consisting of Mrs. Maud Holly Waterman, Chairman, Miss Mary C. Oursler, and *ex officio* certain officers of the Society. Mrs. Waterman and Miss Oursler began the work of the committee; but finding themselves physically unable to perform the duties involved, on April 2, 1949, during the presidency and sponsorship of Mr. L. Worrick McFee, Dr. John B. Nichols was appointed Chairman of the committee and designated to prepare the history.

In pursuance of this assignment, this HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 1903-1953, has been compiled, from the materials available, to the best of the author's ability, belief, and judgment. Aside from indulgence in some philosophical observations, it is rather coldly factual, and the subject does not lend itself to fanciful literary embellishment. The history is hereby submitted to the Society for, it is hoped, acceptance and approval.

The preparation of the history has been a pleasant task, and has afforded agreeable occupation for many otherwise idle hours. Gratifying interest has been displayed by the Society in the progress of its compilation and was climaxed by the unique designation of the writer as "Honorary President" for the anniversary year 1953. For all of which the author expresses his appreciation and gratitude.

(signed) JOHN B. NICHOLS.  
November, 1953.

## 1. A MILLION YEARS

From an etymological and semantic standpoint the term genealogy can be strictly defined as meaning the science of vital origination; in this sense the term genetics is exactly synonymous but is specifically applied to the general biological coverage of the subject. Our use of the term genealogy is a rather loose application to the limited field of tracing ancestry and posterity. There are a number of roots or suffixes which could be introduced into the terminology to designate different aspects of the subject. Thus, from analogy with similar words (as bibliophile, Anglophile) the term geneophily could be used to signify the fondness or love for genealogical research; and conversely the term geneaphobia for opposition to and disapproval of the subject. The "-graphy" sciences in general are treatises giving precise descriptions of the particular objects or entities within

their scope. Thus, geography is a description of the actual objective details of the earth and its surface, as contrasted with geology, the science of the origin, forces, and history of the earth's substance. The term geneography would therefore be a suitable designation for our compilation and presentation of the individuals composing our family trees; and such presentations could in accordance with common usage elsewhere be termed geneograms.

Why genealogy? What are the motives, objectives, techniques, utilities, and rewards that inspire genealogical research, and arouse the keen and fascinated interest of its enthusiastic devotees?

Interest in genealogy is a widespread and potent element in human nature. Among all peoples in different grades of civilization and in all times interest and activity have been displayed in genealogical matters. The many detailed family





records in the Bible attest the genealogical importance attached to the subject by those ancient peoples, and doubtless similar records existed among other old civilizations. From the old segregated American civilizations of the Maya and Aztecs, detailed and prolonged genealogical charts are still extant and on display in the museums. The totem poles of the northwestern American Indians, even in their grade of civilization, were of genealogical and heraldic character. Genealogy as a field of study is not limited to modern civilization, nor is it of recent and local development.

Various considerations may be advanced to account for the interest in genealogy generally entertained by mankind.

Utility is one aspect and purpose of genealogy. An accurate assemblage of family and lineage data has legal importance in such matters as personal identification and orientation, proof of birth and descent, heirship, ownership, citizenship, nationality, admissibility to patriotic organizations, and dynastic lineage. Family affection involves knowledge of relatives in neighboring generations. There are religious applications in various church organizations.

Motives of vanity and the gratification of pride are apt to inspire search for ancestors of distinction; and that factor may be a strong motive for genealogical research. The operation of this motive is apt to involve wishful and uncritical thinking and the acceptance of careless research and unproved conjecture or even of downright fabrication and the suppression of unfavorable information, which lead to the adoption and assertion of conclusions and claims that are not justified by authentic evidence. This is a distorted and objectionable type of genealogical research. Trained and conscientious genealogists will not be influenced by personal desires and interests to depart from the rigid scientific standards of factual and documentary authority required for the elucidation of accurate genealogical truth.

The addiction to genealogy derives its main impetus, however, from a strong and definite liking for genealogical pursuits deeply implanted in the human mind (geneophily). This element is evidently a prominent factor in the makeup of

human nature. It would doubtless be difficult or impossible to account for the cause and origin of this factor; geneophily may be regarded as originating in those profound and inscrutable depths of human nature from which spring so many diverse urges, likes and dislikes, and motivations. It is not necessary to explain or justify geneophily; it may be taken for granted. There is no accounting for tastes. People like genealogy "because"; simply because they like genealogy. It is sufficient to recognize that geneophily is an active element in the fabric and spirit of the human mind and in the interests of many people. In spite of the captious critics (geneophobes) who regard it with indifference and apathy, tolerant amusement, even derision and scorn, the pursuit of genealogy is highly deserving of toleration, support, and cultivation.

The impulse to scientific research has been said to be the desire to gratify idle curiosity. It has also been said that the greatest happiness is to be found in the pursuit of knowledge and the joy of understanding. Just as an excess of "animal spirits" leads to exuberant physical activity, so there may be an excess of "mental spirits" which inspires intellectual activity. This mental exuberance or restlessness requires an outlet in some form of intellectual pursuit, varying according to the interests and personality of each individual, and ranging from the solution of puzzles, card games, or collection of curios, all the way to the most profound scientific research into the constitution of matter and the universe.

Genealogical research is one such form of systematized intellectual activity, and one which exerts an intense fascination for its ardent devotees. The importance of hobbies as an adjunct of culture and mental health is well recognized. Such a hobby, and one on a high intellectual plane, is genealogy. Collecting is a popular hobby; and genealogy is a form of collecting—collecting ancestors and descendants. Only the genealogist can experience the thrill that comes from the unearthing of new family data or the solution of a difficult problem. Genealogy involves matters of family and personal interest, and brings in the backgrounds and sidelights of history. It requires the





acquisition of a rigid scientific discipline and technic, and hence affords valuable intellectual training.

An important cultural quality which is developed by genealogical study is the historical insight and enlightenment which it affords. In tracing out the lives of one's ancestors one gains a close-up view of the circumstances under which they lived, their environment, especially the hardships of the early days. One thus gains a vivid conception of the general conditions of their times, and senses the atmosphere surrounding them. And that is in the cultural field of history.

Genealogy, biography, and history are closely related subjects, and involve identical sources and methods of research and standards of verity. Skilled and reliable genealogical research must be conducted strictly according to the methods of scientific historiography. The data assembled, their coordination and interpretation, and their literary presentation (geneography) must be conclusively based upon objective, factual, and documentary evidence and authority—"source materials" as it is called. The methods and standards are precisely the same as those employed in biographical and historical study. Personal bias and desire and careless and uncritical thinking must be scrupulously avoided, and conjecture must be carefully distinguished from certainty. There are many pitfalls which only an experienced genealogist can appreciate and avoid. It requires much experience and training and familiarity with the sources of in-

formation to make one a trained, dependable, and capable genealogical researcher.

In general, the pursuit of genealogy affords a wholesome avocational outlet for mental unrest and boredom. It is replete with personal and family and historical interest. It requires the development and application of rigid scientific training and attitudes of thought. In its devotees it exerts an absorbing fascination. That is *why* genealogy.

The human mind at the present time, with all of its innumerable deep-seated elements, is the product of gradual development during the million or so years of man's existence on the earth. Thus, far back into the inscrutable past, extends the history of the development of the genealogical spirit in human nature and of the evolution of genealogical institutions. It is that development and that spirit which, in the course of time, led to open and large-scale activity by people in genealogical matters. At that advanced stage, like-minded people engaged in genealogical pursuits naturally gravitated together and formed organizations in furtherance of their common ends. Such eon-long history and evolution ultimately culminated in the formation of special genealogical associations, such as the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in 1845, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society in 1869, the Society of Genealogists of London in 1911, and innumerable local societies; and of the NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY in 1903.

## 2. GENESIS, 1903

"As a genealogist, I suggest the formation of a local genealogical society of which your paper should be the official organ," was suggested by Dr. Albert C. Peale, Registrar of certain patriotic societies, and published in the number dated April 13, 1903, volume II, page 55, of the *Historical Bulletin*, edited by Mr. Newton Leon Collamer; that was the germ from which developed the NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY in Washington.

At that time there were many persons in the District of Columbia and elsewhere in the country who were actively interested and engaged in genealogical research. Conspicuous among these were

numerous officials of various patriotic organizations, headquartered in Washington, who were concerned with the genealogical qualifications of the applicants for membership in their respective societies. Washington was therefore a fertile field for the formation of a genealogical organization, and the time was propitious.

Dr. Peale's proposition was immediately taken up and vigorously prosecuted by Mr. Collamer, who was the publisher of the *Historical Bulletin*, a monthly periodical which, during its existence from May, 1902 to September, 1906, was devoted to the presentation of genealogical and historical information and data, and the



news and proceedings of the various patriotic organizations, no less than 34 of which were listed. During its existence it was the official organ of the National Genealogical Society.

After consultation with other genealogists, Mr. Collamer issued an invitation to persons interested to meet at his residence, 920 S Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., on April 24, 1903, to arrange for the formation of a genealogical society in the District of Columbia. The following account of this meeting was published in the *Historical Bulletin* for May 13, 1903, II, page 71:

**"Genealogists Take Steps to Organize.**

"Numerous local genealogists of both sexes met informally on the 24th *ultimo* to consider the suggestion of Dr. Peale, Registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars, that a local genealogical society be formed (see page 55 of our last issue); but it soon developed that those present thought an association of wider membership might well be organized, as the matter which it is expected to print will be of interest to genealogists without regard to their residence. Formal organization was therefore deferred until non-residents could be heard from, in order that their ideas so far as possible might be incorporated into the

constitution and embodied in the charter when Congress is asked to grant it. Only the necessary officers were selected and in a purely temporary capacity, and as a committee they were instructed to issue a Prospectus (which we reproduce herewith) and submit replies to a meeting to be held about the first of June."

Another account of this meeting and the organization and early history of the Society, this one by Mrs. Ruth M. Griswold Pealer, was published in the Society's *Quarterly* for January 1918, Vol. VI, page 76. According to her, the preliminary meeting of April 24, 1903, was attended by six persons, Mr. and Mrs. Newton L. Collamer, Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch, Alfred Barbour Dent, Mrs. Pealer (Registrar General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution), and Miss Eugenia Washington Moncure, its Genealogist. At that meeting the matter was discussed, and an organizing committee was appointed, consisting of Mrs. Pealer, Mr. Collamer, and Mr. Dent. This committee under date of May 1, 1903, issued and mailed to genealogists throughout the United States a Prospectus of the "American Genealogical Association," as it was at first designated. This Prospectus was as follows:

**PROSPECTUS OF THE AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

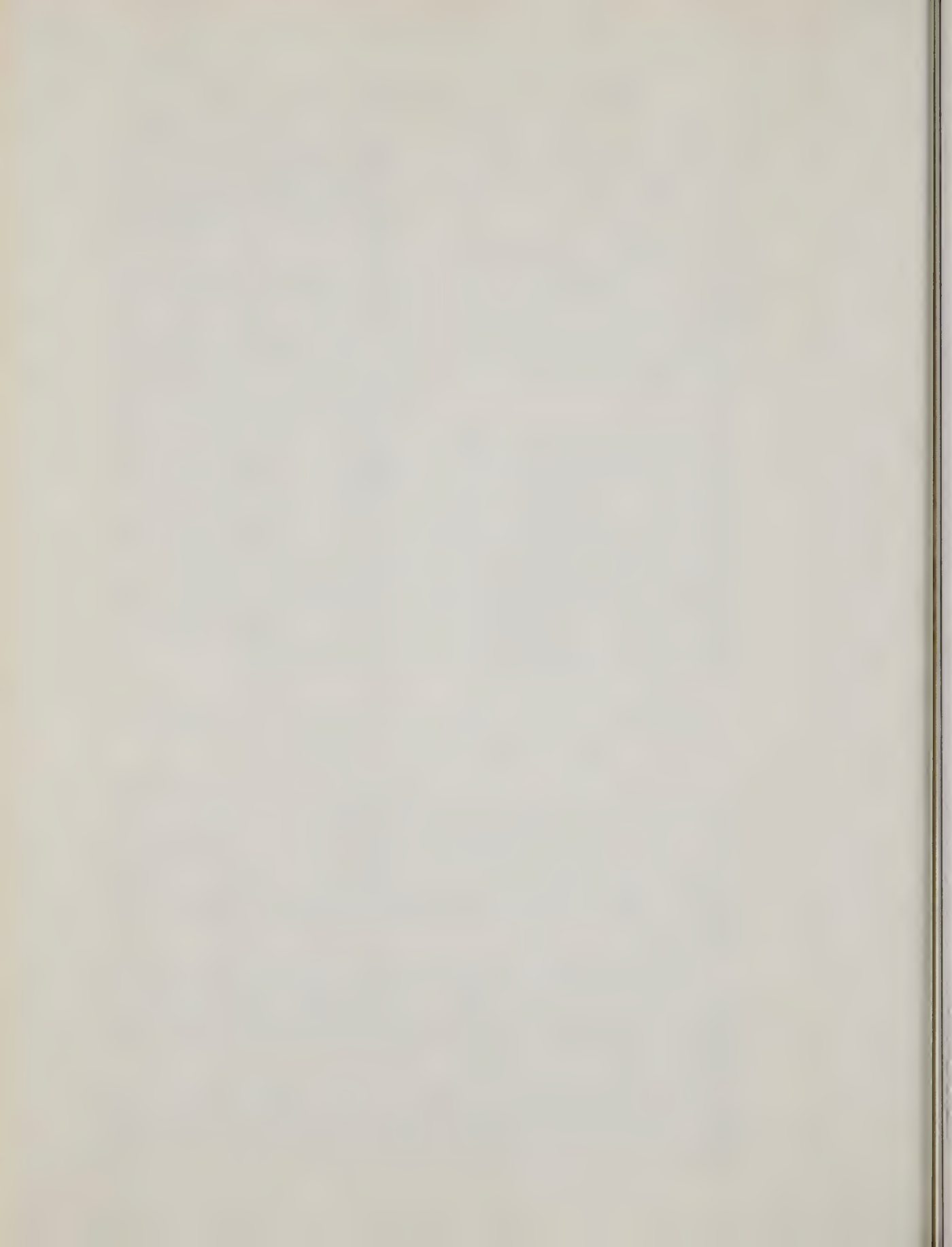
Issued May 1, 1903, by the Committee on Prospectus appointed at an informal meeting held in Washington, D. C., April 24, 1903.

With all its organizations the National Capital has none appealing to genealogists although the latter are plentiful here. The annual conventions and other meetings of patriotic and historic associations draw hither hundreds interested in ancestry, while thousands know of the genealogical data to be had exclusively in Washington but cannot easily gain access to it when they come or have no ready channel for securing it by correspondence. There are especially valuable records available here which have never been published and which, through suitable influence, might be obtained and put in print; and in that form they would be of great practical use to genealogists throughout the country.

Prompted by the belief that organization by those common aims and needs would be of mutual benefit and might secure access to or copies of official records where individual effort would not, we therefore propose the formation of a National genealogical society with headquarters in this city. At a recent informal meeting for an interchange of opinions the following was evolved as our general and composite idea, although nothing will be decided on finally until every suggestion in response to this Prospectus shall have been considered.

Name, American Genealogical Association; object, material assistance to genealogists who are members; membership, resident and corresponding; dues, \$1 a year at first; government by a Board of local members who can meet; medium, a publication to be issued six or at least four times a year, free to members; the card index bureau





or "clearing house" idea to be established and carried out; library and permanent quarters unnecessary now; heraldry to be a feature if members so decide.

Suggestions are solicited from all. Those interested in an organization formed on substantially this basis are invited to remit \$1 and be enrolled as charter members: their suggestions shall have special consideration and the policy finally adopted will conform as nearly as possible with the popular opinion. The *Historical Bulletin* will serve as a medium of publicity for the present, in addition to which the friends of the movement are requested to circulate this Prospectus (with their endorsement of approval) in letters to their genealogical correspondents. Additional copies may be had by applying to the Temporary Treasurer.

Fraternally and Cordially,

MRS. RUTH M. GRISWOLD PEALER, *Temporary Chairman*,  
Registrar General D. A. R.—Address: 604 9th street

NEWTON L. COLLAMER, *Temporary Secretary*,  
Editor *Historical Bulletin*.—Office: 1006 F street

ALFRED B. DENT, *Temporary Treasurer*,  
Washington Loan & Trust Co.—Address: 906 A st, S E

Much interest was manifested, numerous suggestions were received during the summer, and many persons, from both the District of Columbia and the country in general, presented applications for membership, accompanied by the prescribed fee of \$1.00. A committee, consisting of Alfred B. Dent, Chairman, Dr. Edwin A. Hill, Miss Minnie F. Mickley, Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch, Miss Eugenia Washington Moncure, Dr. Albert C. Peale, and Newton L. Collamer, was formed in the summer to draft a constitution for the proposed organization.

At a meeting held on November 14, 1903, at Room 18, 1006 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., 24 members were present, and the original constitution was adopted. This date may be taken as that marking the formal organization or inauguration of the National Genealogical Society. At subsequent meetings, held on December 15 and 21, 1903, by-laws were adopted, permanent officers were elected for the ensuing year, and the complete

formal organization of the Society was effected.

The constitution of 1903 fixed the name of the organization as THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. It laid down provisions for membership, officers and committees, dues, and the conduct of the Society's business in general.

All the members who were admitted and qualified before the end of the year 1903 were classed and listed as charter members. These were 48 in number, 30 resident, and 18 non-resident. However, a belated exception and addition was made in May, 1904, when Miss Mary Desha (one of the founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1890) was admitted as a "charter member." Her name—the 49th—appears in the list of charter members enrolled in the Certificate of Incorporation of the Society, dated June 16, 1904. The names of the charter members of the Society are shown in the following list.

#### CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 1903

Blount, Mrs. Lucia E. (D. C.)  
Brandenburg, Joseph F. (D. C.)  
Brown, Dr. Charles W. (D. C.)  
Brown, Mrs. Charles W. (D. C.)  
Bulloch, Dr. Joseph G. B. (D. C.)  
Burritt, Dr. Alice (D. C.)  
Campbell, Captain Charles H. (D. C.)  
Cole, Frank T. (Ohio)  
Collamer, Newton L. (D. C.)

Cushing, James S. (Can.)  
Dent, Alfred Barbour (D. C.)  
Dent, Louis Addison (D. C.)  
Dewey, William T. (Vt.)  
Dunlap, Mrs. Christine Walton (D. C.)  
Gardner, Charles C. (N. J.)  
Hammond, F. S. (N. Y.)  
Hetzl,\* Miss Susan Riviere (D. C.)





Higgins, Miss Almeda M. (D. C.)	Neff, Miss Elizabeth Clifford (Ohio)
Hill, Dr. Edwin A. (D. C.)	Pealer, Mrs. Ruth M. Griswold (D. C.)
Ingham, Mrs. Celia I. (Ill.)	Powell, William T. (D. C.)
Jewell, Captain Theodore F. (D. C.)	Prindle, Adm. Franklin C. (D. C.)
Johnson, Arthur E. (D. C.)	Prindle, Mrs. Isabella A. H. (Va.)
Johnson, B. F. (D. C.)	Rives, Mrs. Franklin (D. C.)
Johnston, Mrs. Sanders (D. C.)	Rupp, Mrs. Helen Nye (Ill.)
Lewis, Carll A. (Conn.)	Slade, Mrs. William Gerry (N. Y.)
Lobdell, Mrs. James H. (Ill.)	Smith, R. Atwater (D. C.)
Mackenzie, George Norbury (Md.)	Spaford, Edgar L. (N. Y.)
Maricle, Mrs. Cora Letts (D. C.)	Stillman, Mrs. E. Maynicke (D. C.)
Marsh, Mrs. George (Lucy M. O.) (D. C.)	Talcott, Miss Mary K. (Conn.)
McMillan, Miss Kate Louise (Ohio)	Walter, Henry M. (D. C.)
Meigs, Henry B. (Md.)	Wetherall, William (D. C.)
Mickley, Miss Minnie F. (D. C.)	Wilson, Edward E. (D. C.)
Nash, Miss Elizabeth Todd (Conn.)	Desha,* Miss Mary (D. C.)

Numerous members in this list were active and energetic in the formation of the Society; but undoubtedly to Newton L. Collamer, publisher of the *Historical Bulletin*, is due the utmost credit for his services to that end; if any one person could be regarded as its founder it would unquestionably be he. Because of illness in his family, he was compelled to discontinue the publication of the *Bulletin* in September 1906; and after having served it in various official capacities, he relinquished active membership in the Society. In recognition of his services he was put on the list of honorary members published in 1910. It would be invidious to particularize the many other active moving spirits in the establishment and conduct of the Society.

Dr. Peale and Miss Moncure, who were active in the preliminary proceedings for effecting the organization of the Society,

did not, however, qualify for charter or active membership in it by payment of the initiation fee.

In order to give the Society a legal status, incorporation was necessary. At first a charter from Congress was desired, but as this was unobtainable, the Society was incorporated on June 16, 1904, under the laws of the District of Columbia, with 49 charter members. The certificate of incorporation was filed in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, and recorded in Liber 16, folio 6668, of the Incorporation Records. In 1905 the obtaining of a charter from Congress was again considered and attempted, but without result.

A satisfactory working organization having been effected, the National Genealogical Society was in position to proceed into the year 1904 to carry on its natural activities.

### 3. THE FIRST DECADE, 1903-1912

The beginning of the publication of the QUARTERLY of the National Genealogical Society in April 1912, may be regarded as an epochal point in the history of the organization, setting off the decade from 1903 to 1912 as a special preliminary or formative period, a period of trial and error. As is frequently the case in genealogical research, the information available concerning this early period, although there are some gaps, is more plentiful

than that of some later periods in the Society's history for which the minutes containing the records of its transactions are missing.

The sources of information relating to the first decade of the Society's history are mainly twofold: (1) The newsy accounts of the proceedings of the Society published in its officially adopted news organ, Newton L. Collamer's *Historical Bulletin*, down to the time of its discontinuance in September 1906; (2) the "Leaflets" (as they were officially called),

\* Chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the District of Columbia are named for these ladies.



pamphlets, and circulars published from time to time by the Society, giving official information to the members, lists of members and officers, the constitutions, notices of meetings, news and announcements, and bits of genealogical and historical data. Of these Leaflets twelve were issued from 1904 to 1911. The Constitution, adopted in 1911, is published in the Quarterly for July 1912, page 30; and a paper on the organization and early history of the Society, read by Mrs. Ruth M. Griswold Pealer at an annual meeting on March 8, 1915 and published in the QUARTERLY for January 1918, page 76, affords much information.

The Leaflets (numbered) and circulars issued 1904-1911, with their more important contents, were as follows:

*Prospectus*, May 1, 1903. 1 page.

*No. 1*, 1904 (March); list of charter members, officers and committees for 1904, constitution and by-laws, explanatory notes. 12 pages. (Also issued with title page blank.)

*No. 2*, November 1, 1904; notices and news. 2 pages.

*No. 3*, April 1, 1905; officers and committees for 1905, notices and news. 4 pages.

*No. 4*, October 11, 1905; notice of annual meeting November 11, 1905. 2 pages.

*No. 5*, April 12, 1906; list of officers and committees for 1906, list of members, constitution and by-laws, news. 8 pages.

*No. 6*, October 31, 1906; notice of annual meeting November 10, 1906, news. 3 pages.

*No. 7*, March 18, 1908; notice of special meeting March 28, 1908. 1 page.

*No. 8*, an important issue, but unfortunately missing.

*No. 9*, October 31, 1908; officers and committees for 1908, list of members, notice of annual meeting November 14, 1908, genealogical data. 12 pages.

*No. 10*, May 31, 1909; officers and committees for 1909, list of members, announcements, genealogical and literary data. 16 pages.

*No. 11*, January 1910; officers and committees for 1910, list of members, genealogical data. 20 pages.

*Notice* dated October 25, 1910, of annual meeting November 12, 1910. 1 page.

*Notice* dated November 26, 1910, of proposed amendments to the constitution to be considered at the regular meeting of January 14, 1911. 3 pages.

*No. 12*, May 1911; genealogical data. 15 pages.

In the course of its proceedings the National Genealogical Society engaged in those activities and interests that would naturally pertain to such an organization. The methods of transacting its business were established by the original Constitution adopted in 1903, as from time to time amended. Numerous and frequent changes were made in the constitutional procedure. These changes were at first facilitated and expedited by having placed large authority for amending the Constitution in the power of the subordinate Council, associated with the acceptance of ballots from the non-resident members sent by mail. The constitution was thus kept somewhat in a state of flux and change. The full texts of the Constitution and By-Laws as they then stood are published and available for 1903, 1906, and 1911 (Leaflets Nos. 1 and 5, and QUARTERLY for July 1912, page 30).

Membership was divided into three classes: Resident, those members residing in the District of Columbia and vicinity; Non-resident or Corresponding members, those located elsewhere in the country; and Honorary membership for distinguished personages, consisting of "those admitted to such membership" by vote of the Council or the Society. The admission and control of members were vested in the Council and Board of Management. In the early years, the initiation fee for active members, resident and corresponding, was fixed at \$1.00, with annual dues of \$1.00. The general control and conduct of the Society and the incumbency of the chief officers were placed in the hands of the resident members; but the non-residents were empowered to vote by mail for officers and amendments to the constitution, a month's previous notice having been given. The national scope, always in the background aimed at in the organization and implied in the name of the Society, was at that time realized by the admission of corresponding members located throughout the country in general; and in the Constitution of 1911 more





specific plans were attempted for the organization of auxiliary Branches in the States, which were followed up and amplified in subsequent years.

The officers consisted of a President, Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor, with a Herald added in 1910. Officers were elected at the annual meeting in November and served during the following calendar year beginning January 1. The Constitution of 1903 provided for two Vice-Presidents; that of 1906 for six; and that of 1911 for three, with State Presidents. The resident officers constituted an Executive Committee renamed "Board of Management," in September, 1904, which continued in more or less unsatisfactory operation until 1912, when it was abolished. In addition, a Council was established; it consisted of the above officers together with six Councillors, two being elected annually for three-year terms. The Council was charged with large duties and powers for the general conduct of the business and affairs of the Society. Committees on Clearing House, Finance, Heraldry, Legislation, Membership, and Publication were provided for.

Annual meetings were held in Washington on the second Saturday of November in each year; and in 1908 monthly meetings were instituted, on the second Saturday of each month from October to May,

inclusive. The Council held its regular meetings quarterly, on the second Saturday in March, June, September, and December. The Board of Management met as needed for the transaction of the current and interim business of the Society under the direction of the Council and between its meetings. The meetings were held at the offices or residences of the members.

Amendments to the Constitution could be made by a two-thirds vote at the annual meetings of the members, or at any time under the direction of the Council by a written two-thirds vote of the entire active membership. Publications, in the form of official "Leaflets" (see above), were from time to time issued to the members giving official lists, regulations, important notices and announcements, general information, and genealogical and historical data.

*Membership:* During its formative year, 1903, the Society acquired and started out with 48 charter members, 30 resident, 18 non-resident or "corresponding." Another member (resident) admitted in May, 1904, was belatedly given the status of charter membership, making 49 in all.

The records that are available exhibit the number of members of the several classes in good standing at various dates during the first decade as follows:

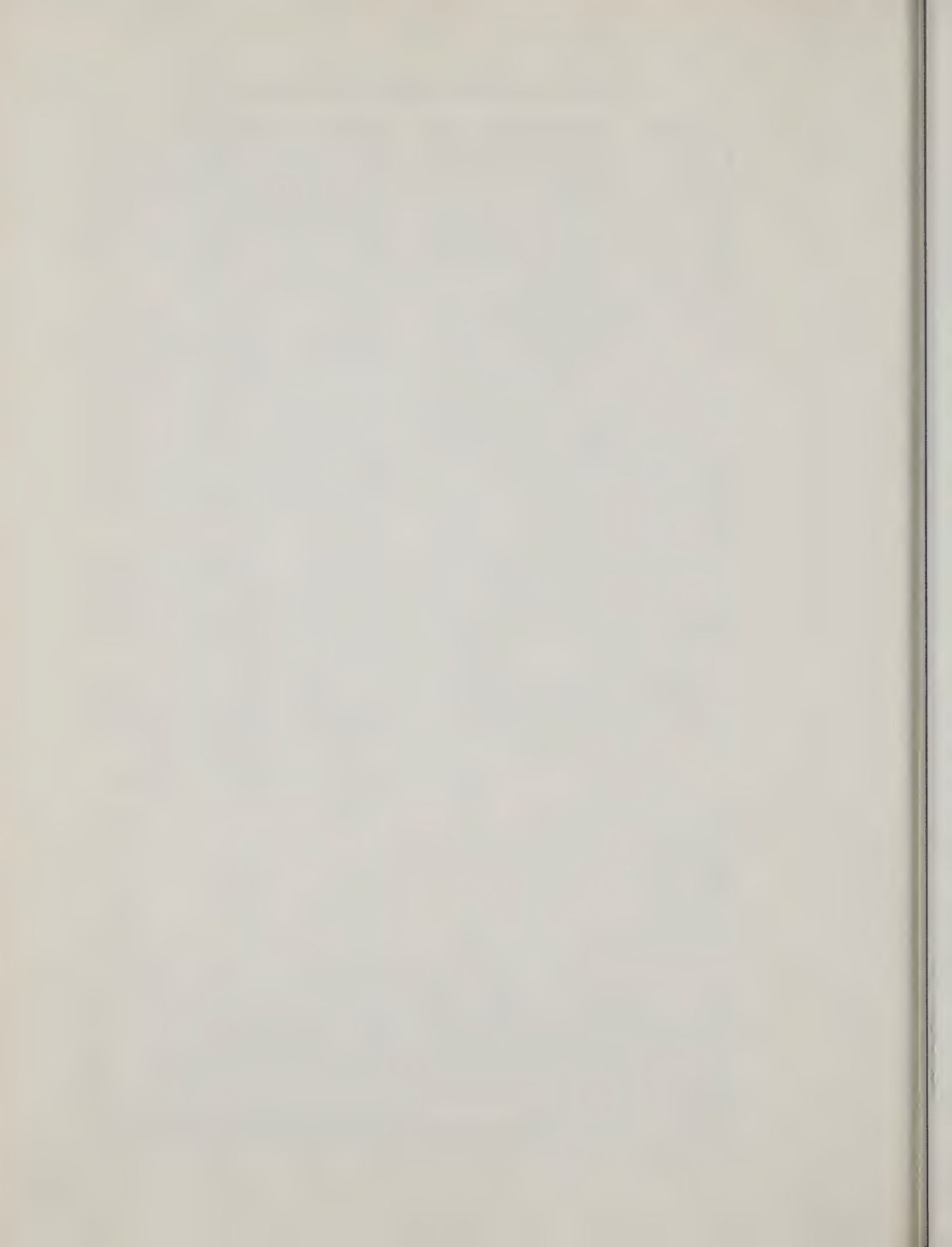
Date	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Honorary
1903 (charter members) -----	30	18	48	
1904, November 12 -----	31	26	57	8
1905, April 1 -----				13
1906, January -----			53	
1906, April 12 -----	27	23	50	15
1908, October 31 -----	28	29	57	15
1909, May 31 -----	28	28	56	18
1910, January -----	24	34	58	18
1912, April -----	37	40	77	23

The net number of active members continued rather constant from 1904 to 1910, after which there was a marked increase. Of the original 49 charter members of 1904 only 21 remained living or in active standing in 1912. The number of non-resident members came to exceed the numbers of those resident.

The first elections to honorary membership, provided for distinguished person-

ages, took place on June 11, 1904, seven in number; the list increased to 23 in 1912.

In addition to the collection and presentation of genealogical and historical data, in the beginning years of the Society particular stress was directed to two special fields of activity, namely, the promotion of a so-called "Clearing House" project and Heraldry. The clearing house project, originated by Mr. Collamer and





other genealogists in March 1903, aimed at the collection from active genealogists of a great mass of index cards presenting data on individual intermarriages. The Genealogical Society was brought into this movement by the formal establishment, among its regular committees, of a Clearing House Committee to obtain and contribute data for the card-index bureau or collection. Provision for this committee was carried in the constitutions of the Society from 1903 to 1914, or perhaps later; but its operation does not appear to have been a conspicuous success, and it was discontinued. Much attention was also given to heraldry, a subject in which Mr. Alfred B. Dent was greatly interested and to which, a prolific contributor. A committee on Heraldry was established from the beginning, in 1903; and a Herald was added to the regular officers of the Society in 1910. The Leaflets issued by the Society during its first decade and the *Historical Bulletin*, during its existence, served as media for the publication of genealogical and historical contributions by the members.

At first the proceedings of the Society related mainly to the transaction of business matters, conducted by the annual meetings of the members and the quarterly and monthly meetings of the Council and Board of Management. The interest and effort displayed by the officers and members fluctuated and, after two or three years, apathy and indifference developed. There was much complaint that the conduct of the business of the Society was hampered by negligence and lack of interest on the part of committee members in failing to attend meetings, thus causing lack of a quorum qualified to transact valid business. The shortcomings of the committee work of the Society were thus expressed in the *Historical Bulletin* for April, 1906:

"The N. G. Society is still having its troubles. With a finance committee which does not finance, a clearing house committee that has never yet cleared, a heraldry committee that don't herald, and a legislation committee that has not brought in the bill for charter by Congress which it was directed to do . . ."

Conditions and activities deteriorated to a low level in 1907. So critical was the situation that on March 18, 1908, a doleful

call was issued by the president, Louis A. Dent (*Leaflet No. VII*), for a special meeting of the members to be held on March 28 "to determine, because of apparent lack of interest of many of the members, and lack of co-operation with and of the officers, whether the Society shall not voluntarily disband, and to take such other action in the premises as may at said meeting be determined."

The Society's *Leaflet No. VIII*, which doubtless related to the results of that meeting, is unfortunately missing from the archives; but information concerning the proceedings is available from other sources.

A first-hand account of the crisis was given by Miss Lillian Adelaide Norton in a letter dated January 25, 1939, acknowledging her election as an honorary member of the Society, as follows:

"Dr. Bulloch, Miss Minnie Mickley and I resurrected to life the old National Genealogical Society a number of years ago. Mr. Louis Dent was then president. He had been appointed to some Government position, I believe he was made D. C. Registrar of Wills. There had been no meetings for a long time, so I set the ball rolling. I called upon Mr. Dent, whom I knew very well, and he told me because of his official duties he could not serve us longer, but he offered his office in the old Fendall Building for our meetings if we re-organized. We three then set to work and interviewed all the old members we could contact and invited others interested to join. As I remember it our first meeting was with Miss Mickley at her home on L Street between 13th and 14th. Later we held several meetings in Mr. Dent's office. For a number of years all the meetings were held at my home and the Society continued to grow. So, if I have not been very useful in recent years, I feel I did my bit in days gone by."

Changes made at the meeting in the manner of conducting the affairs of the Society were detailed by Mrs. Pealer in her historical sketch published in the *QUARTERLY* for 1918, page 76. Open monthly meetings of the Society were provided for, and matters of business were brought directly to the members for discussion and decision. These social monthly meetings proved to be very enjoyable and instructive, bringing the members into closer personal relations with



one another and affording opportunity for the presentation and discussion of papers on genealogical subjects.

At the meeting of March 28, 1908, therefore, the critical situation of the Society

was happily resolved. Instead of dissolution, it had a rebirth and revivification, and was given an impetus and *esprit* which have continued to energize it to this day.

#### 4. RECORDS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The sources of information for compilation of a history of an organization would naturally be its records and archives. A variety of such material was available for the preparation of this history of the National Genealogical Society, as follows:

The data concerning the formation and earliest period of the Society's history are afforded by the monthly issues of the *Historical Bulletin*, published from 1902 to 1906 by Newton Leon Collamer, the practical founder of the Society. This periodical, which was largely devoted to news and proceedings of the various patriotic organizations, was adopted as the Society's news organ, and it presented accounts of its proceedings to 1906.

During its first decade, until the formation of the QUARTERLY in 1912, the Society also issued a series of official "Leaflets" and other circulars (already mentioned) giving accounts of its transactions and other information. Of these the Society still possesses an apparently complete set, with one exception.

The minutes of the meetings of the National Genealogical Society should have formed a comprehensive record of its proceedings and doings, from which specific and authentic historical information should have been obtainable. Unfortun-

ately, the minutes of the Society's transactions prior to the year 1940 are missing or lost, and only those from that date are available for consultation.

Next to the minutes, the issues of the Society's QUARTERLY, although not presenting a complete and systematic record of its doings, afford much valuable information.

Available for consultation has been a vast mass of documentary material—correspondence, miscellaneous papers, memoranda, records, etc., of various officers and individuals—which, though not complete, date from the early days of the Society. Especially included are the important papers of various treasurers, corresponding secretaries, and the librarian. The items are thousands in number and, while mostly routine in character, they have afforded much significant information.

The losses of original records, and lack of specific information, have handicapped the compilation of this history and impaired its completeness. Such data as have been found available, however, have been utilized in its preparation, and it is hoped that the best that has been possible has been done under the limitations of the source material at hand.

#### 5. ORGANIZATION AND CONSTITUTION

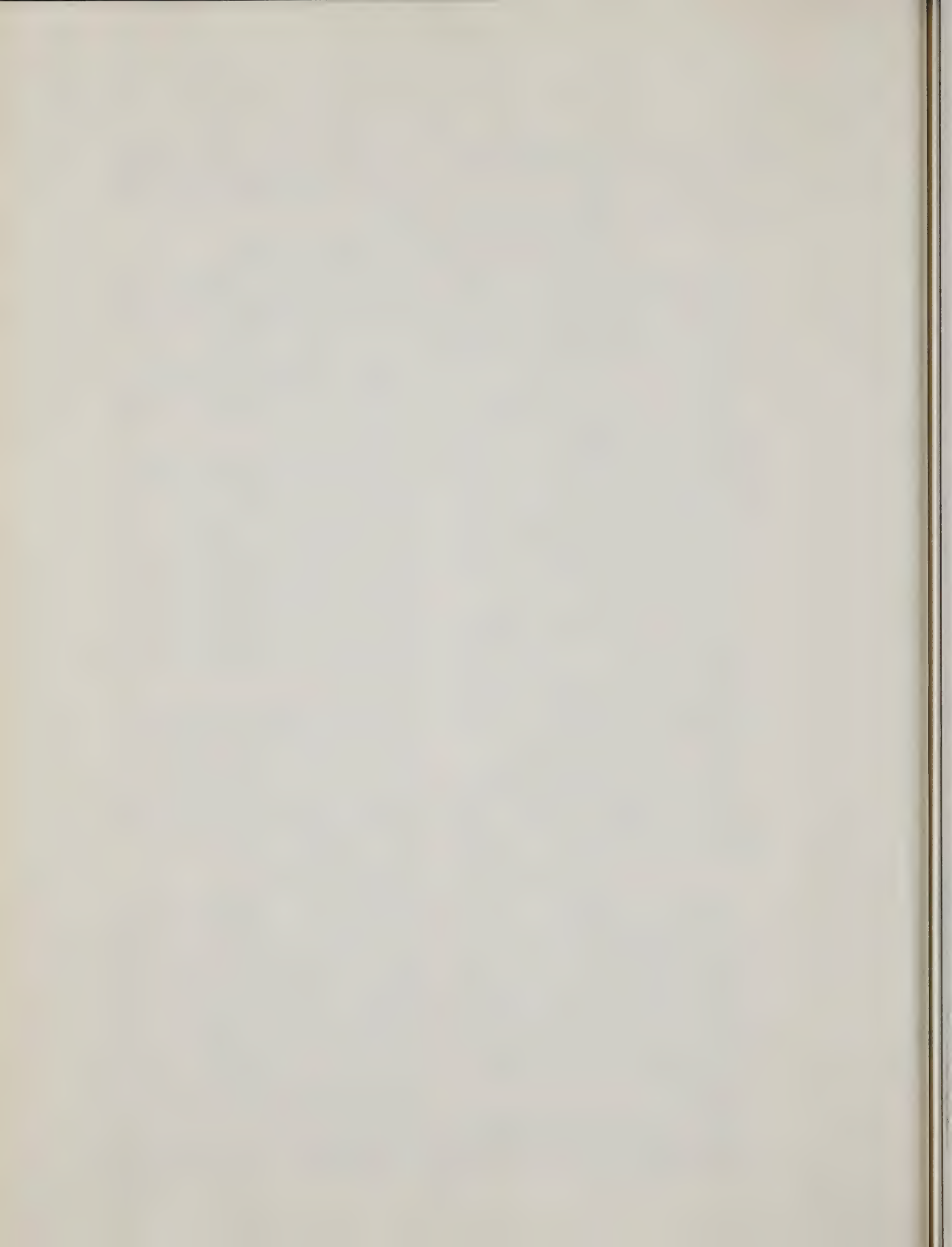
The form of organization and manner of conduct of its activities, as laid down in its Constitutions and Bylaws, have not greatly changed during the semi-centennium of existence of the National Genealogical Society. Various revisions and amendments have been made from time to time, but they were mostly of minor character or adjustments to changing conditions and needs.

After the adoption of its original Constitution in 1903, several revisions and changes were made and published during the first decade, in 1906, 1911, and 1912

(see *Leaflets Nos. 1 and 6* and pages 30 and 55 of the QUARTERLY for 1912.) After 1912, a number of changes were made in the Constitution (as apparently in 1913, 1918, 1922), but, because of the loss of the Society's minutes and lack of publication in the QUARTERLY, record and details of their adoption are lacking.

A complete revision of the Constitution and Bylaws was made May 2, 1931, and published in the contemporary issue of the QUARTERLY; and another complete revision, the one now in force (1953), was adopted October 2, 1948, and published in the QUARTERLY for that year, page 57.





The Society's Constitution is made up of the usual provisions necessary for the operation and functioning of such organizations—declaration of identity and purpose, membership, meetings, officers and committees with their duties and purposes, discipline, finances, etc. In general, the conduct of the routine business affairs and activities of the Society is assigned to a

Council, subject to the overall authority and control of the general organization, and leaving the meetings of the latter free and untrammelled for genealogical exposition and discussion.

The current Constitution and Bylaws of 1948, which governs the present organization and transactions of the Society, is here presented in full.

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Adopted October 2, 1948

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I—NAME AND OBJECT

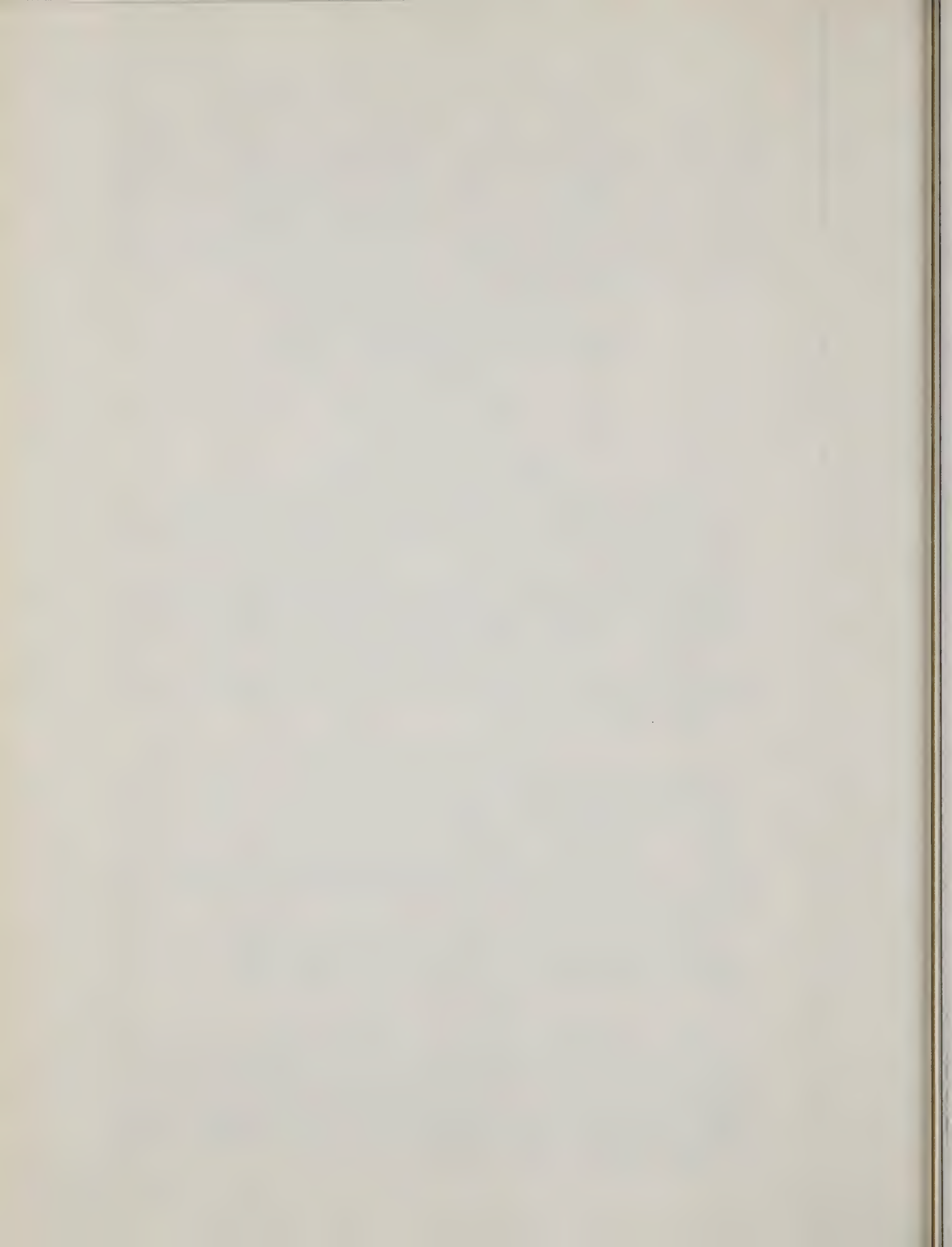
1. This organization shall be known as The National Genealogical Society.
2. Its objects shall be to collect and preserve genealogical and historical data, to assist its members in their genealogical research, to issue publications and to devote attention to heraldry.
3. Its seal shall consist of the bearings of the Society displayed on the breast of a conventional eagle, below which is a ribbon or scroll containing the motto, "Non Nobis Solum," and above, a similar ribbon with the words, "THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY," all contained within two concentric circles, and the date of the founding of the Society, "1903," in figures between the eagle's claws.
4. Its insignia shall be a shield "argent, three acorns gules within a bordure azure," all within a ribbon of gold bearing in blue letters the name and date, "National Genealogical Society, 1903."

#### ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership may include individuals, organizations, and institutions and shall be divided into three classes as follows:
  - a. *Resident*—Those residing within the District of Columbia or its immediate vicinity, as determined by the Council.
  - b. *Non-resident*—Those residing beyond the District of Columbia or its immediate vicinity, as determined by the Council. Non-resident members may form in groups as Chapters of the National Genealogical Society under such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Council.
  - c. *Honorary*—Those admitted to such membership by vote of the Society.
2. The membership may be divided into classes such as Fellows, Active or Regular Members, and Associate Members, as may be determined by the Council.

#### ARTICLE III—OFFICERS

1. The officers shall consist of a President, three Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Herald, a Registrar, an Editor, a Librarian, and six Councilors. The Council may add other officers, either elective or appointive, and subsequently may abolish such of these as the Council may have created. If and when any chapter organizations are effected, the Council may make appropriate changes in the names of the officers of the National Society by prefixing the adjective "National" to each officer's designation.



2. The Council of the Society shall consist of the elected Officers and Councilors, the appointed Chairmen of the Standing Committees, and the Past Presidents. The President of the Society shall be the President of the Council.

#### ARTICLE IV—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Presidents, Vice Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, Editor, and Herald shall perform such duties as appertain to their respective offices.

2. The Registrar shall keep a register of the names, addresses, and time of election of all members of the Society and shall have the custody of all applications for membership. The Registrar shall present the completed and approved applications to the Council for final action; and shall notify all members of their election and conduct all correspondence concerning applications. (The latter must bear the recommendation of at least two members).

3. The Librarian shall have the care and custody of all books, magazines, pamphlets, and manuscripts, of which the Society becomes possessed, and shall catalogue and arrange the same; shall have charge of soliciting gifts, negotiating exchanges and purchasing volumes for the Library, and have complete supervision of its administration.

#### ARTICLE V—NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The nomination of Officers and Councilors shall take place annually at the meeting in April and the election shall be held at the annual meeting in May. Only members in good standing may serve as officers and their terms shall begin immediately following their election. No officers shall be elected at the same meeting at which nomination is made, and the election shall be by ballot. Two Councilors shall be elected after due nomination, at each annual meeting, to serve for a term of three years.

2. All members, excepting honorary, may vote in person, or, if remote from the city, may vote in writing, for the election of officers, on every amendment to the Constitution, and on any proposition which has been mailed to them at least ten days prior to the meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES

1. The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Council, the following Standing Committees from members and officers: Membership, Finance, Heraldry, Publication, History, Necrology, Genealogical Inquiries, Program, and such others as the Council may determine. The President may, and shall as directed by the Council, appoint Special Committees, with or without approval by the Council as may be determined by the Council.

2. The Finance Committee shall include the Treasurer and one Past President and shall make recommendations to the Council regarding all investments and re-investments of Publication Endowment Funds and all Permanent Endowment Funds, and shall see that the Treasurer is bonded for approximately the amount of annual receipts.

3. The President shall be a member, *ex-officio*, of all committees.

#### ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and the By-Laws may be made at a regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, and of others voting in writing; such proposed amendment having been submitted in writing at a regular meeting and signed by at least five members; and notice of such proposed amendment having been mailed to all active members at least ten days before such meeting.





## BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I—MEETINGS

1. The Society shall meet in Washington, D. C., on the first Saturday in each month from October to May, inclusive.
2. The Council shall meet at least once each month during the period from October to May, inclusive, and at such other times as the exigencies of the Society may demand, on call of the President, or on the written request of five members, at least three days' notice having been given to each member as to the time and place of said meeting. The proceedings of each Council meeting shall be reported to the next regular meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE II—QUORUM

1. At all meetings of the Society a quorum shall be one-quarter of the resident members two months prior to the meeting, but each member remote from the city who files a written vote on any question, shall be considered as attending and be counted in the quorum.
2. A quorum of the Council shall be five.

## ARTICLE III—INITIATION FEE AND DUES

1. The Council of the Society shall have full power to determine the initiation fee, the annual dues of members or classes of members, the terms of subscription to the Society's *Quarterly*, and the price of insignia (optional). The dues of members admitted in October, November, and December shall be credited to the end of the following year.
2. Notice of dues for the succeeding calendar year shall be mailed by the Treasurer during December. Members in arrears 1 March may be suspended upon recommendation of the Council.
3. The payment by an acceptable individual of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) at any one time, or more as the Council may determine, shall constitute a LIFE membership and exempt the individual member from further payment of dues. These sums shall be invested as a Publication Endowment Fund.

## ARTICLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

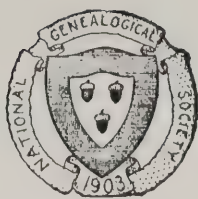
1. Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall be the parliamentary authority at all meetings.
2. The Council shall be an administrative body. It shall act upon applications for membership, and perform such other duties as may be necessary for the success of the organization, subject to the approval of the Society.



## SEAL

3. The seal is one and thirteen sixteenths of an inch in diameter, consisting of the bearings of the Society displayed on the breast of a conventional eagle, below which is a ribbon or scroll containing the Motto, "*Non Nobis Solum*," and above a similar ribbon with the words "THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY," all contained within two or more concentric circles. The date of the founding of the Society, "1903," in figures appears between the eagle's claws.





## INSIGNIA

4. The design of the Insignia is a shield in blue, white and red enamel, surrounded by a ribbon of gold bearing the name, "National Genealogical Society," in blue letters. In heraldic terms the blazon of the shield is "Argent, three acorns gules, within a bordure azure."

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. At regular meetings of the Society the following shall be the order of business:

Call to order.

Roll call.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Reports of Officers.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees.

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

Election of Officers, if in order.

## SEALS AND INSIGNIA

A Seal was adopted for the Society in the original constitution of 1903, consisting of two concentric circles, the words "National Genealogical Society" between them, the year "1903" between them at the bottom, and an oak tree as a charge within the inner circle. This seal was 30 millimeters in diameter. It was in use by the Society to 1910, a change being made in 1911 by the constitution adopted in that year.

The selection of a tree as the symbol of genealogical ideology has some rational and logical basis; there is a natural analogy between a family pedigree and a branching natural tree which would make the latter an appropriate genealogical emblem. Different genealogical organizations—such as for instance, the National Genealogical Society in 1903, the New England Historic and Genealogical Society since 1847, and the Society of Genealogists of London—have independently selected a tree for representation in their seals and insignia. Such selection apparently represents the natural outcome of an obvious line of thought.

In 1911 the National Genealogical Society adopted the Seal which has been used ever since to and at the present time. In diameter  $1\frac{13}{16}$ ths of an inch (45 millimeters), it has been specified in the constitutions as consisting of the bearings of the Society ("argent, three acorns gules, within a bordure azure") displayed on the

breast of a conventional eagle, below which is a ribbon or scroll containing the motto "Non Nobis Solum," and above, a similar ribbon with the words "The National Genealogical Society," all contained within two concentric circles, and the date of the founding of the Society, "1903," in figures between the eagle's claws.

The adoption of Insignia for the Society, for use on stationery, was a matter of discussion and consideration in the early months of 1904; and the motto "Non Nobis Solum" (not for ourselves alone) was then adopted. A print of the design for the insignia then used was published in the *Historical Bulletin* for July, 1904, page 21.

The design for the insignia was later changed to a form corresponding to that for the seal which was adopted in 1911, that is, with three acorns instead of an oak tree. This insignia was first offered for sale in 1909 (*Leaflet No. 10*) in the form of a pin or badge, of about the size of a silver 25-cent piece (25 millimeters in diameter), at the price of \$2.00—in 1920 increased to \$3.00. Its design was specified in the Constitution of 1911 and later as a shield "argent, three acorns gules within a bordure azure," all within a ribbon of gold bearing in black letters the name and date "National Genealogical Society, 1903." In the constitutions of 1931 and 1948 the lettering of the name and date was specified as blue instead of black. Although thus varying specified





as blue and black, the actual color used on the pins may be described as dark blue. This insignia has been used by the Society ever since, on its stationery, and as a decoration made in the form of pins of blue, white, and red enamel.

During his presidency, in 1931, Dr. Henry S. Jacoby at his personal expense had a bookplate designed, which was printed and is used as the book-plate for books in the Society's library.

#### AUXILIARY BRANCHES

At its beginning, one of the chief aims of the Society was the organization of auxiliary or subordinate State or Regional Branches or Chapters under its control; and in its early years keen effort and desire were devoted to the attainment of this end. The adjective "National" in the title of the Society expressed this thought.

The headquarters and place of meetings of the Society are by its constitution located in the city of Washington, District of Columbia. Besides local "resident" membership, however, non-resident or corresponding membership has always been provided for persons away from Washington, and throughout the entire country; this, in a measure, has established the national character of the organization. The non-resident or "remote" members had all the rights and privileges of active membership, including that of voting by mail for the election of officers, amendments to the constitution, and important matters of business, as notified to them. These provisions have been carried along in the constitution ever since, but except for a brief beginning period such routine notifications have been a dead letter and not in operation.

Attempts were made in 1904-05 to obtain from Congress a charter fortifying the national character of the organization, but without success.

As a concession to the non-residents the constitution of 1906 provided for the annual election of six vice-presidents, four or five of which in the annual lists of officers to 1910 were non-residents.

In 1911 and 1912 definite steps and plans were adopted looking to the formation of auxiliary branches in the several States. For the year 1912 six State Presidents were included in the list of officers, but these were nominal only, and not backed by any actual State organizations. They were:

New York—Mrs. William Gerry Slade

Maryland—George Norbury Mackenzie

Ohio—Miss Elizabeth Clifford Neff

Maine—Mrs. Jeannette S. Rogers

Georgia—A. B. Caldwell

Minnesota—Adelbert C. Wendell

In 1912 the adjective "National" was prefixed to the titles of the various officers, thus emphasising the auxiliary system; and a new office was added to the official staff, entitled "Organizer of Societies," charged with the duty of organizing auxiliary State branches in the manner laid down in the constitution. In the annual lists the officers were designated "National" from 1913 to 1916 inclusive, and the Councillors so designated to and through 1919; and an Organizer of Societies was listed 1913 to 1918, when the title was dropped. The designation "National" has not been attached to the titles of the officers since 1916, except that in December, 1944, a National Genealogist, National Historian, and National Geographer were added to the official list.

In 1922 the office of Organizer of Societies was revived, being added to the duties and title of the Corresponding Secretary. The office was so listed until 1925, after which it was discontinued. The incumbents of the office of Organizer of Societies are listed elsewhere, with the other officers of the Society.

The hoped-for formation of auxiliary State or local branches is an object that has never been attained or realized by the Society; the scheme is apparently too ambitious, grandiose, and impracticable. In the present constitution, however, the way has been left open for the formation of such branches should the occasion arise.

Included among the regular membership of the Society are numerous local genealogical and historical organizations, libraries, and the like; but their status is that of independent and individual members, and they are not organic branches of the National Genealogical Society.



## MEMBERSHIP

The constitutions of the Society have always and to the present time provided for three classes of members of the organization: Resident, non-resident or corresponding, and honorary. Their election and control are under the jurisdiction and action of the Council.

The resident members comprise those residing in the District of Columbia and its vicinity. The working officers of the Society have naturally, with rare exceptions, been from this group able conveniently to attend its meetings and engage in its business activities.

The non-resident or corresponding members comprise those located away or "remote" from Washington. Admission to such membership of qualified persons residing throughout the entire country has always been energetically promoted by the Society, and is an exemplification of its "National" character. A large proportion of its members belong in this category. They have exactly the same status and voting and other privileges as the resident members, and with the latter are classed as "active" members. When by chance attending the meetings there is nothing to distinguish them from the resident members.

The non-resident members have always had the constitutional right to vote by mail for the election of officers, amendments to the constitution, and important matters of business notified to them; members thus filing written votes have been regarded as attending the meetings and counted in the quorum. From the beginning, that provision has been carried in the constitutions of the Society and expressed in exactly the same words. Dur-

ing a brief early period expected items of important business were systematically announced to the non-resident members, affording them the opportunity of voting by mail; but that procedure died out. However, the authority for non-residents to vote by mail still exists, although for some time rarely if ever exercised.

Originally the resident and non-resident members were separately classified and listed; but that has become a dead letter and for many years no distinction has been made in the membership and mailing lists.

Life memberships have been authorized since 1912, at fees increasing in accordance with financial and economic conditions generally prevailing. Occasionally life membership has been bestowed on deserving members relinquishing active participation in the affairs of the Society. In all, the Society has had nine paid life memberships in its lists. For many years local group organizations and institutions have been inducted into membership, as well as individual persons. This is specifically so authorized in the present constitution. Provision was also made in the constitution of 1948 for division of the membership "into classes such as Fellows, Active or Regular Members, and Associate Members, as may be determined by the Council."

The total number of active members which the Society has had since its founding is not exactly ascertainable.

The initiation fees and annual dues of members, life membership, and independent subscriptions to the *Quarterly* have been established at various times as follows:

Year	Initiation fee	Annual dues	Life membership	Subscription
1903 -----	\$1.00	\$1.00		
1912 -----	1.00	2.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$ 25.00	\$1.00
		1.00 <sup>2</sup>		
1914 -----	2.00	2.00		
1917 -----	2.00	2.00		2.00
1920 -----	3.00	2.00		3.00
1925 -----	2.00	3.00		
1931 -----	2.00	3.00	40.00	
1948 -----	2.00	4.00	50.00	4.00
1953 -----	2.00	5.00	100.00	6.00

<sup>1</sup> Resident. <sup>2</sup> Non-resident.





The numbers of active members of the Society at various times have been:

	Total	Resident	Non-Resident
1903 <sup>1</sup> -----	48	30	18
1914 -----	110	47	63
1927, May --	191	53	138
1932, May --	225	108	117
1942, May --	259	2	2
1948, May --	395		
1953, May --	700 (approximately)		

Honorary members consist of "those admitted to such membership by vote of the Society." This class affords a means of extending recognition or honor to distinguished genealogists, and to outstanding members of the Society who have rendered highly meritorious service to it. At its beginning and during its first decade the Society elected an impressive list of distinguished personages to honorary membership, the list of whom, then 23 in number, was published in the first issue of the *QUARTERLY*, April, 1912. Of these, 16 were foreigners, from England 6, Scotland 8, and one each from Ireland and France. Included were eminent genealogists, heralds of the College of Arms, historians, authors, and similar celebrities. A notable American honorary member was Gen. Henry M. Robert,

author of the famed *Rules of Order*. The list reflects credit and prestige on the Society; and contrariwise the honor has been appreciated and esteemed by its recipients, as indicated by the following item in *The Scots Pictorial* (published in Scotland) for March 13, 1909, page 523.

The fellows of the National Genealogical Society, Washington, U. S. A., have unanimously elected Mr. D. P. Menzies of Menzieston, F. S. A. (Scot.), Plean Castle, Balmennarigh, near Stirling, an hon. Fellow of their learned and distinguished fellowship. This is in recognition of his newly published second and enlarged edition of "The 'Red and White' Book of Menzies: The History of Clan Menzies and its Chiefs."

In another case, the survivors of the Rev. Walter MacLeod, of Edinburgh, were sufficiently impressed to notify the Society of his death, on October 16, 1912.

The data available concerning honorary membership since 1912 are incomplete. No other foreigners seem to have been honored. Latterly outstanding and meritorious members of the Society have been elected to the honorary list on the relinquishment or resignation of their active status.

Following is the list, so far as is known, of those who have been elected to honorary membership in the Society:

*List of honorary members of the National Genealogical Society*

Date of  
Election

- 1905 Baillie, Edmund Alexander, Hinsford House, Dorchester, England.
- 1912 Banks, Dr. Charles Edward, Tisbury, Massachusetts. Genealogist.
- 1912 Bolton, Charles Knowles, Atheneum Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Librarian, author. (1867-1951)
- 1912 Bostwick, Frederick, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 1952 Brumbaugh, Dr. Gaius Marcus, Washington, D. C. Member of the Society 1913; editor of the *QUARTERLY*. (1862-1952)
- 1905 Bulloch, John, Aberdeen, Scotland. Editor. (1837-1913)
- 1905 Bulloch, John Malcolm, London, England. Writer; see *Who's Who* (English). (1867-1938)
- 1917 Bulloch, Joseph Gaston Baillie, M. D., Washington, D. C. Charter member and officer. (1852-1934)
- 1908 Burke, Ashworth Peter, London, England. Writer. (1864-1919)
- 1905 Burke, Sir Henry Farnham, Herald's College, London, England. Herald, genealogist, writer; see *Who's Who*. (1859-1930)
- 1909 Collamer, Newton Leon, Washington, D. C. Genealogist, editor, founder of the Society. (1863-1941)
- 1905 De Richmond, Meschinot, La Rochelle, France.

<sup>1</sup> Charter member. <sup>2</sup> Not separated by residence.



- 1919 Faust, Dr. Albert Bernhardt, Ithaca, New York. Genealogist, writer. (1870-1951)  
 ? Foster, Colonel Everett Worthington, Washington, D. C., and California. Member 1908. (1864-1933)
- 1919 Gruber, Michael Alvin, Washington, D. C.
- 1905 Habershon, Matthew H., Greenhead Cottage, Sheffield, England.
- 1912 Haywood, Marshall DeLancey, Raleigh, North Carolina. Librarian, historian, writer; see *Who Was Who in America*. (1871-1933)
- 1908 Henderson, John Alexander, Aberdeen, Scotland. Writer, Fellow Society of Antiquaries. ( ? -1929)
- 1919 Hinke, William John, Auburn, New York. Writer. (1871-1947)
- 1951 Jacoby, Henry Sylvester, Washington, D. C. Genealogist; president of the Society 1930-34. (1857-1955)
- 1912 Kriebel, Rev. Howard Wiegner, Lititz, Pennsylvania. Writer, historian, editor. ( ? -1936)
- 1943 Lewis, Marcus W., Washington, D. C. Writer; member 1927. (1862-1946)
- 1905 Mackintosh, Alexander Mackintosh, Geddes, Nairn, Scotland. Writer.
- 1905 MacLeod, Rev. Walter, Edinburgh, Scotland. Writer. ( ? -1912)
- 1905 Menzies, David Prentice, Plean Castle, Menzieson, Balmennarigh, near Stirling, Scotland. Writer, Fellow Society of Antiquaries (Scotland). (1851- ? )
- 1944 Morris, Miss Maud Burr, Washington, D. C. Member 1914; officer. (1871-1952)
- 1905 Munro, Alexander, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- 1939 Norton, Miss Lillian Adelaide, Washington, D. C. Member 1908; officer. (1860-1945)
- 1905 Paul, Sir James *Balfour*, Lyon King at Arms, Edinburgh, Scotland. Herald, writer; see *Who's Who*. (1846-1931)
- 1908 Reynal-Upham, W. V., Hampstead, London, England. Corresponding member of the Society 1906.
- 1905 Robert, General Henry Martyn, Owego, New York. Distinguished army engineer; author of the famed *Rules of Order*; see *Who Was Who in America*. (1837-1923)
- 1912 Stanard, William G., Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.
- 1908 Vicars, Sir Henry, Ulster King at Arms, Dublin, Ireland.
- 1905 Wimberley, Captain Douglas, Inverness, Scotland.

## OFFICERS

During its existence the principal officers of the Society have been a president, vice-presidents, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and editor, provided for in 1903; a herald, added in 1910; and a registrar and librarian, added in 1912. From 1913 to 1916, inclusive, the adjective "National" was prefixed to the titles of these offices, to emphasize the desired nationalization of the organization. This prefix has not been applied at any other times, but provision has been made for its resumption in the event of the formation of subordinate branches of the Society.

The terms of service of the officers embraced the calendar years to 1922 inclusive; beginning in 1924 the fiscal years from May to May. Elections were held at the annual meetings in November, Decem-

ber, or May; nominations having been made in November or April preceding the annual meetings.

The number of vice-presidents was fixed at two in 1903; at six in 1906; and at three since 1911. The duty of the registrar has been to maintain a record of the membership; and the editor has been responsible for the Society's publications.

In addition to these principal officers there have been some minor or transient officials provided for. A chaplain was authorized in the constitution of 1911, but omitted in that of 1912. A little later the office was restored, and Rev. W. E. Callender was listed as chaplain in 1916 and 1917; the office was listed in 1918, but without an incumbent, and after that year was omitted.

In connection with the hoped-for organi-





zation of auxiliary State branches officers were for a time provided for the furtherance of that project, but were discontinued as no results were obtained. These offices, and their incumbents, were as follows:

Organizer of Societies:

- 1913 Mrs. Morris L. Croxall
- 1914-15 Mrs. Leonore Caldwell Benson Hill
- 1916-18 Mrs. John S. Bukey

Corresponding Secretary and Organizer of Societies:

- 1922-23 Mrs. Carrie White Avery
- 1924 Captain Harry A. Davis
- 1925 Charles Shepard, 2d

In the conduct of the QUARTERLY and the library additional assistants have been provided for, as elsewhere specified.

In July and December, 1944, a National Genealogist, National Historian, and National Geographer were authorized and appointed. The incumbents of these officers have been:

National Genealogist — 1944-53 Milton Rubincam; National Historian — 1944-52 Edward H. West; National Geographer — 1944-47 Hugh B. Johnson.

The regular officers who have served the Society are shown in the following lists. For the years 1907, 1911, and 1926 lists of the officers are not available.

LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENTS

- |         |                             |         |                               |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1904    | Captain Charles H. Campbell | 1924-28 | Dr. Addams S. McAllister      |
| 1905    | Mrs. Lucia E. Blount        | 1928-30 | Calvin Ira Kephart            |
| 1906    | Louis Addison Dent          | 1930-34 | Dr. Henry S. Jacoby           |
| 1907    | ?                           | 1934-36 | Major Hallock P. Long         |
| 1909-10 | Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch    | 1936-38 | Prof. Frederic C. Torrey      |
| 1911    | ?                           | 1938-40 | Lieut. Col. Calvin I. Kephart |
| 1912    | Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch    | 1940-42 | Max E. Hoyt                   |
| 1913-15 | Alfred Barbour Dent         | 1942-44 | Edward H. West                |
| 1916    | Dr. Francis A. St. Clair    | 1944-45 | Leroy W. Tilton               |
| 1917-18 | Frank Sylvester Parks       | 1945-48 | Milton Rubincam               |
| 1919    | Robert Atwater Smith        | 1948-50 | L. Worrick McFee              |
| 1920-21 | Frank Sylvester Parks       | 1950-52 | William Galbraith Smith       |
| 1922    | Gilman Bigelow Howe         | 1952-53 | Herbert F. Seversmith         |
| 1923    | Frank Sylvester Parks       | 1953-54 | Milton Rubincam               |

"Honorary President" for the anniversary year 1953, John B. Nichols

VICE-PRESIDENTS

- |      |   |         |  |
|------|---|---------|--|
| 1904 | Miss Minnie F. Mickley<br>Miss Susan R. Hetzell   | 1909    | Miss Minnie F. Mickley (D. C.)<br>W. Mosby Williams (D. C.)<br>Miss Corrine L. Scott (N. Y.)<br>Miss Elizabeth C. Neff (Ohio)  |
| 1905 | Louis A. Dent<br>Miss Susan R. Hetzell  |         | Miss Isabel F. Johnstone (D. C.)<br>Adelbert C. Wendell (Minn.)  |
| 1906 | Admiral F. C. Prindle (D. C.)<br>Miss Minnie F. Mickley (D. C.)<br>Mrs. William G. Slade (N. Y.)<br>Mrs. James D. Iglehart (Md.)<br>Miss Elizabeth T. Nash (Conn.)<br>Miss Elizabeth C. Neff (Ohio) | 1910    | Miss Minnie F. Mickley (D. C.)<br>Mrs. William G. Slade (N. Y.)<br>Miss Corrine L. Scott (N. Y.)<br>Miss Elizabeth C. Neff (Ohio)<br>Miss Isabel F. Johnstone (S. C.)<br>Adelbert C. Wendell (Minn.) |
| 1907 | ?   |         |  |
| 1908 | Miss Minnie F. Mickley (D. C.)<br>R. Atwater Smith (D. C.)<br>Mrs. William G. Slade (N. Y.)<br>Mrs. James D. Iglehart (Md.)<br>Miss Elizabeth T. Nash (Conn.)<br>Miss Elizabeth C. Neff (Ohio)      | 1912    | Miss Minnie F. Mickley<br>Mrs. George Marsh<br>Dr. James Meredith Wilson   |
|      |   | 1913-15 | Miss Minnie F. Mickley<br>Mrs. George Marsh<br>Robert Atwater Smith  |



1916	Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch Mrs. George Marsh Daniel Smith Gordon	1938-39	Alexander H. Bell Mrs. Samuel B. Woodbridge Mahlon H. Janney
1917-18	Mrs. Ruth M. G. Pealer Robert Atwater Smith Benjamin F. Johnson	1939-40	Mrs. Samuel B. Woodbridge Mrs. Lillian M. Sanford Mahlon H. Janney
1919	Mrs. Marian Longfellow Gilman Bigelow Howe Mrs. Francis A. St. Clair	1940-41	Edward H. West Mrs. Lillian M. Sanford Miss Isabel E. Myrth
1920	Gilman Bigelow Howe Herbert P. Gerald Mrs. Eula K. Woodward	1941-42	Edward H. West Miss Isabel E. Myrth Mrs. Eloise D. Bannerman
1921	Gilman Bigelow Howe Mrs. Francis A. St. Clair Miss Lillian A. Norton	1942-43	Dr. Herbert C. Kincaid Captain Merlyn G. Cook Mrs. Jason Waterman
1922	Mrs. Francis A. St. Clair Miss Lillian A. Norton Miss Maud Burr Morris	1943-44	Dr. Herbert C. Kincaid Milton Rubineam Mrs. Jason Waterman
1923-25	Miss Lillian A. Norton Alfred Barbour Dent Miss Maud Burr Morris	1944-45	Dr. Herbert C. Kincaid Lieut. Ben F. Dixon Mrs. Doris W. Strong
1926	?	1945-46	Dr. John B. Nichols Lieut. Ben F. Dixon Mrs. Doris W. Strong
1927-28	Major Harry A. Davis Miss Maud Burr Morris Frank Sylvester Parks	1946-47	Dr. John B. Nichols Dr. Albert H. Gerberich Mrs. Dora A. Padgett
1928-30	Marcus W. Lewis Miss Maud Burr Morris Frank Sylvester Parks	1947-48	Dr. Albert H. Gerberich Mrs. Dora A. Padgett William G. Smith
1930-31	Marcus W. Lewis Miss Elizabeth J. Fisher Major Hallock P. Long	1948-49	Lieut. Col. H. Mayo Savage William G. Smith Miss Hazel Kirk
1931-33	Marcus W. Lewis Miss Elizabeth J. Fisher Frank J. Metcalf	1949-50	William G. Smith Miss Hazel Kirk Herbert F. Seversmith
1933-34	Marcus W. Lewis Winthrop Alexander Frank J. Metcalf	1950-51	Herbert F. Seversmith Miss Hazel Kirk O. Kenneth Baker
1934-35	Marcus W. Lewis Frank J. Metcalf Dr. Jean Stephenson	1951-52	Herbert F. Seversmith O. Kenneth Baker Mrs. Benjamin C. Waldenmaier
1935-36	Frank J. Metcalf Dr. Jean Stephenson Miss Helen Manion	1952-53	Alton O. Thomas Bishop McCauley Miss Kate F. Maver
1936-37	Dr. Jean Stephenson Mrs. Jason Waterman Miss Martha L. Houston	1953-54	Alton O. Thomas Miss Kate F. Maver Clifton Yeomans
1937-38	Alexander H. Bell Mrs. Samuel B. Woodbridge Miss Martha L. Houston		

## RECORDING SECRETARIES

1904	Mrs. Christine W. Dunlap	1909-10	Leonidas W. Ellis
1905	Alfred B. Dent	1911	?
1906	W. Mosby Williams	1912-15	Dr. Francis A. St. Clair
1907	?	1916-21	Miss Maud B. Morris
1908	W. Mosby Williams	1922	Frank S. Parks





1923	Mrs. Eula K. Woodward	1938-40	Miss Isabel E. Myrth
1924-25	Miss Malina A. Gilkey	1940-44	Miss Roberta P. Wakefield
1926 ?		1944-45	Mrs. Jerome A. Esker
1927-28	Miss Malina A. Gilkey	1945-48	Miss Kate F. Maver
1928-35	Miss Helen R. Manion	1948-52	Mrs. Eulalie O. McEachern
1935-37	Miss Emily U. Dingley	1952-53	Miss Nell W. Reeser
1937-38	Mrs. Ruby B. Jennings	1953	Mrs. Tennie Selby Burk

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

1904	Joseph F. Brandenburg	1926 ?	
1904-05	Miss Almeda M. Higgins	1927-28	Calvin Ira Kephart
1906	Newton L. Collamer	1928-31	Mrs. Nellie G. Florence
1907 ?		1931-34	Hallock P. Long
1908-10	Miss Lillian A. Norton	1934	Herbert F. Seversmith
1911 ?		1934-35	Louis Carr Henry
1912	Robert Atwater Smith	1935-37	Mrs. Florence B. Culver
1913-14	Mrs. Ashley W. Woodward	1937	Mrs. Ruby B. Jennings
1915	Miss Dorothy Dent	1937-38	Mrs. Wilma G. Hirsch
1916-20	Mrs. Gaius M. Brumbaugh	1938-42	Milton Rubincam
1921-23	Mrs. Carrie White Avery	1942-48	Miss Hazel Kirk
1924	Captain Harry A. Davis	1948-52	Miss Kate F. Maver
1925	Charles Shepard, 2d	1952—	Miss Helen E. Tucker

## TREASURERS

1903-04	Alfred B. Dent	1923-32	Herbert P. Gerald
1905-06	Henry M. Walter	1932-36	Mrs. Ruth W. Wickware
1907 ?		1936	Mrs. John A. Shirley
1908-10	Alfred B. Dent	1937-40	Leroy W. Tilton
1911 ?		1940-43	Mrs. Alice B. Prigg
1912	Alfred B. Dent	1943-47	John M. Burkett
1913-14	Miss Lillian A. Norton	1947-49	Mrs. Tressie E. Shull
1915-22	Alfred B. Dent	1949-50	Mrs. Lewis O. Bowman
1922-23	Gaius M. Brumbaugh	1950—	Miss Virginia D. Crim

## REGISTRARS

1913-23	Miss Mary C. Oursler	1927-29	Dr. Louise McDanell Browne
1924-25	Dr. Louise McDanell Browne	1929-42	Miss Mary C. Oursler
1926	Dr. Louise McDanell Browne	1942-	Miss Isabel E. Myrth

## HERALDS

1910	Alfred B. Dent	1927-28	Francis Barnum Culver
1911	Alfred B. Dent	1928-34	Dr. Jean Stephenson
1912	Alfred B. Dent	1934-39	Mrs. Azalea Green Badgley
1913-17	Mrs. Overton Woodward Ennis	1939-51	Mrs. Florence B. Culver
1918-25	Mrs. Jessie Porter Wood	1952-	Mrs. William S. Kenyon
1926 ?			

EDITORS and LIBRARIANS, see Chapters 11 and 12

## THE COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL—From the beginning the details of the business and affairs of the Society have been conducted and administered by its Council, subject to the authority and approval of the Society in general. The Council has consisted of the elected

officers and six Councillors, two of whom are elected annually to serve for terms of three years. To these have latterly been added the living Past Presidents (since 1939 listed as Honorary Councillors) and (1948) the Chairmen of the Standing



Committees. The Council is required to meet at least once each month from October to May, and at other times as necessary; also to report its proceedings to the Society. It has usually met immediately

preceding one of the regular monthly meetings.

The elected Councillors who have served the Society throughout its existence are shown in the following list.

## COUNCILLORS

1904-06	Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch	1927-30	Dr. Henry S. Jacoby
1904-05	Dr. Edwin A. Hill	1927-28	Dr. Jean Stephenson
1904-05	Mrs. Ruth M. Griswold Pealer	1927-28	Marcus W. Lewis
1904-05	Mrs. E. Maynicke Stillman	1928-37	Miss Lillian A. Norton
1904	Mrs. Lucia E. Blount	1928-35	Dr. Addams S. McAllister
1904-12	Mrs. George Marsh	1929-30	Major Hallock P. Long
1905	Captain Charles H. Campbell	1930-31	Frank J. Metcalf
1906-12	Mrs. M. L. Croxall	1930-36	Mrs. Jason Waterman
1906	Dr. Alice Burritt	1931-34	Major Calvin I. Kephart
1906-08	Miss Kate Mason Rowland	1933-36	Mrs. Charles L. Brown
1906 08	Henry B. Meigs	1934-37	Dr. Henry S. Jacoby
1908-12	Miss Cora C. Curry	1935-36	Prof. Frederic C. Torrey
1908-09	Mrs. Jeannette S. Rogers	1935-38	Mahlon H. Janney
1908	Admiral Theo. F. Jewell	1936-38	Louis C. Henry
1909-10	Admiral Franklin C. Prindle	1936-41	Major Hallock P. Long
1909-10	Everett Worthington Foster	1936-39	Frank J. Metcalf
1910	Mrs. Alexander Riggin	1937-40	C. Leonard Brown
1912-17	Dr. Charles H. Bowker	1937-40	Dr. Jean Stephenson
1912	Dr. James Meredith Wilson	1938-41	Prof. Frederic C. Torrey
1912-13	Judge Josiah Quincy Kern	1938-42	Mrs. Jason Waterman
1913-14	Mrs. Mary Frances Gibson	1939-42	George B. L. Arner
1913-14	Colonel William B. Thompson	1940-41	Lieut. Col. Calvin I. Kephart
1913-21	Mrs. Francis A. St. Clair	1940-42	Dr. Lida B. Earhart
1913-14	George Marsh	1941-42	Mrs. Nellie P. Waldenmaier
1915	Mrs. George Marsh	1941-44	Robert F. Wood
1915	Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch	1941-42	Dr. Herbert C. Kincaid
1915-16	Mrs. Ruth M. G. Pealer	1942-44	Hugh B. Johnston
1915-16	Mrs. W. E. Callender	1942-44	Mrs. Doris W. Strong
1916	Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh	1942-44	Philip Mack Smith
1916-21	Miss Lillian Adelaide Norton	1942	Miss Mary C. Oursler
1917	Daniel Smith Gordon	1942-45	Dr. John B. Nichols
1917-21	Dr. Francis A. St. Clair	1944-46	Louis Carr Henry
1917-19	Mrs. Eula K. Woodward	1944-45	Milton Rubincam
1918	Mrs. Marian Longfellow	1944-47	Prof. John I. Coddington
1918-19	Herbert P. Gerald	1944-50	Adrian Ely Mount
1920-21	Mrs. Carrie White Avery	1945	Dr. Herbert C. Kincaid
1920-21	Leonard Wilson	1945-46	Mrs. Dora A. Padgett
1920-21	Benjamin F. Johnson	1946-47	Mrs. Ralph Daskam
1921-22	Mrs. Eula K. Woodward	1946-47	Lieut. Col. H. Mayo Savage
1921-22	Herbert P. Gerald	1947-48	L. Worrick McFee
1922-33	Mrs. Gaius M. Brumbaugh	1947-48	Fred W. Luck
1922-25	Mrs. Frank S. Parks	1948-50	Miss Virginia D. Crim
1923-25	Nelson Osgood Rhoades	1948	Clifton Yeomans
1923	Winford L. Mattoon	1948-51	Mrs. B. C. Waldenmaier
1924-25	Mrs. Gilman Bigelow Howe	1950-52	Alton O. Thomas
1924	Charles Shepard, II	1950-51	Lieut. Col. H. Mayo Savage
1924-25	Frank S. Parks	1951-53	Mrs. Andrew J. Sanford
1925-29	Miss Mary C. Oursler	1951-53	William R. E. Camp
1927-35	Charles Shepard, 2d	1952 ---	Mrs. Pearl Shaffer
		1952 ---	Mrs. Lewis O. Bowman





## COMMITTEES

The usual committees, Standing and Special, have from time to time been established to meet the needs and services of the Society. The Standing Commit-

tees provided for in the current constitution are: Membership, Finance, Heraldry, Publication, History, Necrology, Genealogical Inquiries, and Program.

The accomplishments of the Society have not been attained without hard work, diligent, arduous, intelligent labor by officers and committee appointees. The generality of society members are apt not to realize and appreciate the time and effort devoted by the few active workers to the interests and service of the organization, laboring in obscurity and anonymity, at much personal sacrifice, unsalaried and unpaid, and without other recompense than personal satisfaction and devotion to their chosen field of interest. The tasks of general oversight, keeping of records, correspondence, finance, editorship, publication, library conduct, genea-

logical research, and other activities impose heavy duties and responsibilities on officials. In and for the Society these tasks have been taken very seriously and conscientiously by its officers, and have been performed with energy, zest, and efficiency. Election or appointment to official or committee service is an honor; but it is no sinecure. The deep appreciation and gratitude of the members of the Society in general are due to such workers; and the foregoing detailed presentation of their names and official positions is but a slight appreciative recognition and memorialization of their services to the Society.

## MEETINGS

In the early days it was ordained that the National Genealogical Society's "headquarters shall forever remain at Washington, D. C." Later constitutions more simply specify that the meetings are to be held in Washington, District of Columbia. Its nominal post office address in that city until 1952 was at 905 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest (the office of Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh).

The annual meetings of the Society, for the election of officers and other annual business, were from 1904 to 1911 held on the second Saturday of November of each year; from 1912 to 1922 on the first Saturday of December; and since 1924 on the first Saturday of May. Nominations for the election of officers were first to be made in November, since 1924, in April preceding the annual meeting.

The fiscal or official years to 1922, inclusive, coincided with the calendar years; the next official period extended from 1 January 1923, to 30 April 1924; and since then the years have been from May to May.

Monthly meetings were instituted in 1908, on the second Saturday of each month from October to May, inclusive. In 1912 the time was changed to the first

Saturday of these months, and has so continued to the present time, except that on account of the temporary unavailability of the regular meeting room on Saturdays the meetings were held on Tuesdays from 5 November 1946, to 6 May 1947.

Mid-month meetings were instituted in 1930, on the third Saturday of the month from October to May. These meetings were at first called "Round Table Sessions," and attendance was limited to members of the Society. From this beginning have gradually developed the present mid-monthly meetings, now open to general attendance, which, although not mentioned or provided for in its constitution, have become a fixed element in the proceedings of the Society on a basis equal to that of the constitutional first-Saturday meetings.

Until recently the Council and business meeting was held on the first Saturday meeting; but in 1952 it was arranged that the first monthly meeting was to be devoted to a speaker, and on the third Saturday a "Round Table" or less formal meeting.

Annual banquets of the members, held in public dining places, were early origi-



nated, the first one having been held February 26, 1910, in the Toronto Apartments. These banquets, with occasional omissions, became a regular feature of the Society's activities, at first being held in February or March, later, through 1940, in May. The annual dinner in 1941 was held on October 18; then suspended during World War II, but resumed in 1949 taking place then and since, in December, except that none was held in 1951.

Annual exhibits of genealogical material were also specified, at first in conjunction with the annual dinners, but since 1942 have occurred separately, as the mid-monthly meeting in May.

In the early period, the meetings of the Society were held in private residences or offices of the members; refreshments were often served, and the social features made these occasions very pleasant. Later the meetings have been held in public audi-

toriums. During the presidency of Dr. Addams S. McAllister, 1924-28, the meetings were held in the Methodist Building (110 Maryland Avenue, Northeast). The sessions of 1929-30 were held in the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Washington Public Library. During the decade of the 1930's they were held regularly in the rooms of the Young Women's Christian Association (Seventeenth and K Streets, Northwest); the last meeting there, an annual meeting and exhibit, occurred on 18 May 1940. Since then the regular meeting place of the Society has been in the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, located at the corner of Sixteenth and Lamont Streets, Northwest. The first meeting here was held 5 October 1940. However, because of wartime restrictions and other interruptions, the meetings were temporarily held in the Archives Building from 17 February to 26 May 1945, and in October 1946.

#### THE QUARTERLY AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

During the first decade of its existence the Society irregularly and intermittently published bulletins, or "leaflets," presenting to the membership information concerning the activities of the organization, along with considerable specific genealogical data. In 1912 the Society took an important step by establishing its regular periodical organ, the NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY, which has continued in vigorous and efficient publication ever since.

The first number of the QUARTERLY was issued in April 1912, under the editorship of Miss Lillian Adelaide Norton, with Dr. Francis A. St. Clair and Miss Cora C. Curry as publication committee. Since then forty-one annual volumes have been published through 1953. In volumes 1 to 11 the quarterly numbers were issued in April, July, October and the following January; but beginning with volume 12, for the year 1923, the numbers have been issued in March, June, September, and December, making the annual volumes coincident with the calendar year. Publication was missed for the year 1926, because of lack of funds. An account of the history of the QUARTERLY and its editorial incumbents was published by the

then Editor, Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh, in the issue for March, 1941, XXIX, page 36.

The number of pages of text per volume, including indexes, during 1912 to 1929, was 52 to 80 (mostly 64); in 1930 it was enlarged to 92 pages, and since then has ranged from 112 to 156 pages, and in 1953, it rose to 219, not including the annual index. Indexes are lacking for volumes 13-16 and 19-21; those for volumes 23 to 26 were published separately as a Special Publication (No. 8). In the entire series of forty volumes, to and including 1953 (164 separate numbers), a total of 4,126 pages is devoted to the text proper, not including the indexes and supplementary publications; in addition the indexes embrace 340 pages. This was a ratio of about one page of index (triple column, fine print) for every 12 pages of text; which is an indication of the richness of the QUARTERLY in genealogical items and material.

The separate annual subscription price for the QUARTERLY was fixed in 1912 at \$1.00; in 1917 at \$2.00; 1920, \$3.00; 1948, \$4.00; and in 1953 at \$6.00.

During the first decade of the Society's history, prior to the establishment of the QUARTERLY, the annual selection of an Editor was provided for in the constitu-





tion. The Editors who thus served in that period were as follows:

1904-05, Newton L. Collamer; 1906, Alfred B. Dent; 1907, ? ; 1908, Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch; 1909-10, Robert Atwater Smith; 1911, ?

The editorial staff which has had charge of the publication of the *QUARTERLY* since its founding in 1912 have been:

*Editors:*

Miss Lillian Adelaide Norton, 1912-13; Mrs. Frank A. Fernald, 1913-14; Daniel Smith Gordon, 1914-15; Frank Sylvester Parks, 1915-17; Dr. Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, 1917-43; Dr. Jean Stephenson, 1943-44; Miss Roberta P. Wakefield, 1945—.

*Editor Emeritus:* Dr. Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, 1943-52.

*Assistant Editor:* Dr. Jean Stephenson, 1929-40.

*Associate Editors:*

Dr. Jean Stephenson, 1941-43; Milton Rubincam, 1941- —; Louis Carr Henry, 1943-47; Mrs. Dora A. Padgett, 1945—.

*Business Manager of the Society:* Leroy W. Tilton, 1941-45.

*Executive Secretary:* Leroy W. Tilton, 1946-52; L. Worrick McFee, 1952—.

*Assistant Executive Secretary:* L. Worrick McFee, 1950-52.

The *QUARTERLY* has always been devoted to genealogical data solely, and rendered valiant service to the genealogical public. During later years it has been expanded to cover a wider range in territory as the Society's membership has increased. The greater part of the contents consists of primary source material, together with helpful articles and compilations, editorial notes, brief mention of current genealogical literature and enterprises, news items and miscellanea. The publication of the periodical has been conducted on a high plane of efficiency and excellence, reflecting great credit on its editorial management. Particularly in this connection must be noted the able and devoted service rendered by Dr. Brumbaugh as its editor over the long period of twenty-seven years. This involved a prodigious amount of work on his part; to aid him assistant and associate editors

were provided in 1929 and 1941, and a business manager in 1941. In testimony of his great services to the organization, on his 90th birthday, May 7, 1952, Dr. Brumbaugh was elected an honorary member of the Society; he died one week later, May 14. The substantial set of volumes of the *QUARTERLY* constitute an imposing and permanent memorial to his service and memory. His editorial successors, Dr. Jean Stephenson and Miss Roberta P. Wakefield, have continued to produce the periodical on a high standard of excellence. Continuing *Supplements* have been added, one, the alphabetized "Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications", prepared by Max E. Hoyt, has been running since 1943, and has now (December 1954) reached 768 pages, it seems to be about one-half completed. It is available separately in annual installments of 64 pages to members and subscribers. When completed, reprints should be available in one or more volumes. The second Supplement, the "Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware" is now completed and is available as a pamphlet of 83 pages. Other valuable articles which have been used serially are expected to be published as reprints as and when completed.

**1919097**

The volumes of the *QUARTERLY* are meaty and factual, a rich mine of authentic and reliable genealogical information, and a solid block and monument of achievement. The magazine has been a tower of strength to the Society, and helps to maintain the organization on a high plane of accomplishment and excellence. It is an honor and credit to the Society, and its circulation has increased steadily. It is to be found in most libraries that stock genealogical publications.

In addition to the *QUARTERLY* separate special publications on genealogical matters have, from time to time, been issued by the Society.

A compilation of "Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies", by Dr. Albert Bernhardt Faust, of Cornell University, was published by the Society in 1920 and 1925, in two volumes: Vol. I in 1920, 122 pages, and Vol. II in 1925, 243 pages.

The series of special "Genealogical Publications" for sale at various prices,



was inaugurated in 1933; to date eleven numbers have been issued. Several of these publications are now out of print, certain new ones are planned for early release. The list of these publications follows:

- No. 1. Genealogical Research Among Pennsylvania German and Huguenot Families; by Charles Rhoads Roberts, 1933. Price \$0.25. [Exhausted.]
- No. 2. Sources of Information in Connecticut; by Julia E. Clarke Brush, 1933. \$0.25. [Exhausted.]
- No. 3. The Development of Early Emigrant Trails; by Marcus W. Lewis. Map only now available. 25 cents to members, 35 cents to others.
- No. 4. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Tax Lists, 1751, 1756, 1757, 1758; by Dr. Albert H. Gerberich and Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh, 1933. \$1.00.
- No. 5. Records of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States as a Source for Authentic Genealogical and Historical Material; by Cora C. Curry, 1935. \$1.00. [Only a few copies left.]
- No. 6. Abstracts of Wills, Chatham County, Georgia; by Mabel Greeman LaFar and Caroline Price Wilson, 1936. \$3.50.
- No. 7. Origin of Armorial Insignia in Europe (also of Miscellaneous Surnames and Insignia); 2d Edition; by Col. Calvin I. Kephart, 1938. \$2.50.
- No. 8. Index, Volumes XXIII to XXVI, National Genealogical Society Quarterly, 1939. \$1.00.
- No. 9. Long Island Genealogical Source Materials; by Herbert F. Seversmith, 1949. 35 cents to members, 50 cents to others.

As already mentioned an "Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications," compiled and arranged by Max E. Hoyt

with the cooperation of the National Archives which made its data available, is being published as a *Supplement* (No. 1) in serial installments in and with the issues of the Quarterly, beginning in March 1943. These are separately paged, and are arranged for separate binding; 64 pages have been issued each year. [With the December 1954 QUARTERLY, Vol. XLII, 768 pages became available.]

As also noted a similar serial *Supplement* No. 2, (the "Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware", compiled by Leon deVallinger, Jr., State Archivist of Delaware), with separate paging, commenced in the QUARTERLY in September, 1948, and ran in the QUARTERLY until completed in the December 1954 QUARTERLY. [Dates raised by Editor]

The object of this compilation was to replace in some degree the lost 1790 census of this state; it has now been completed and is available as Publication No. 10. It should fill a long felt need for information regarding the names of taxable persons living in Delaware just after the Revolutionary War; it was prepared from the first tax lists of this the first State to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

Two other publications were issued early in 1954. These three pamphlets are known as:

- No. 10. Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware; by Leon deVallinger, Jr., \$2.50 to members, \$3.00 to others.
- No. 11. A Yankee in King George's Archives, by Kenneth M. Ellis, \$0.75 to members, \$1.00 to others.
- No. 12. Dutch Family Naming Systems, by Rosalie Fellows Bailey; price \$1.00; to members, 75 cents. [Editor]

## THE LIBRARY

During the years of its existence the Society has accumulated a substantial library of works in its field—an essential facility in the activities of such an organization. The office of Librarian was established by the Society in 1912, and from that time until her death in 1944 it was held and conducted by one of the most remarkable members whom the Society has had, Miss Cora C. Curry. At the time of her accession to membership in 1907 the organization had no library; but it became an enterprise dear to her heart,

and with her vision, rugged perseverance, and unrelenting diligence it was brought into being through her efforts.

It is noteworthy that the first donation which initiated the library collection was 30 volumes of the *Pennsylvania Archives*, from the State Librarian of Pennsylvania, contributed by another outstanding member of the Society, Miss Mary C. Oursler. From this beginning there was a continuous stream of donations and accessions to the library.

The growing accumulation of books





was at first stored in the basement of the residence of Miss Curry at 1020 Monroe Street, Northwest. Upon her removal from that address in August 1923, the bulky mass of library material was transferred to the residence of Gilman B. Howe, President of the Society at 3217 Thirteenth Street, Northwest, in 1922. It was stored there until 1931. In the meantime the continuing accumulation of books was stored in Miss Curry's own residence at 1420 Girard Street, Northwest; also some material in the residence of Dr. Brumbaugh at 1954 Biltmore Street, Northwest.

In 1931 there was a surge in the activities connected with the library and on June 23 the bulky accumulations of books in the three private residences were transferred to rental storage in the warehouse of the Security Storage Company at 1140 Fifteenth Street, Northwest. The Librarian was assisted in her work by a library committee appointed annually. Also in 1931, at his own expense Dr. Henry S. Jacoby, then President of the Society had a bookplate designed and printed for use in labeling the books.

In May 1940, following its final meeting on the 18th at the Young Women's Christian Association, the Society was confronted with the problem of obtaining a future meeting place. After negotiation and deliberation, satisfactory arrangements were made for holding the meetings thereafter in the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Washington Public Library. Permission was also given to install the Society's library in the same quarters. Upon his election to the Presidency of the Society in May 1940, Mr. Max E. Hoyt immediately took energetic steps for such a setup of the library. The bulky mass of books was transferred from storage and temporarily deposited in his residence, 7746 Sixteenth Street, Northwest. Here, during the hot weeks of June and July, with the aid of a host of voluntary helpers (about 35 in all), the books were inspected, reconditioned, classified, and catalogued. The work was done on two or three evenings each week, attended by from 8 to 10 helpers—sometimes as many as 18. Funds were raised for the purchase of book shelves by voluntary donations, increased by the proceeds of a card party on 21 February 1941. The library

was then transferred to and installed in the Branch Library quarters.

This establishment of the library in its new quarters was an arduous task, but it was satisfactorily accomplished. At its first meeting there, 5 October 1940, the Society had the satisfaction of finding its library fully set up and functioning. It was an epochal event in the Society's history; and a joyous consummation of Miss Curry's cherished dream. To read her periodical reports is to sense the joy that thrilled her heart at the successful outcome of her efforts. To her, to her willing helpers, and to the generosity and aid afforded by Mr. Hoyt, the President, the deep gratitude and appreciation of the members of the National Genealogical Society are due.

During the brief remainder of her life Miss Curry continued in charge of the library, and although at her death in 1944 she had reached the remarkable age of 92 years her energy and activity continued unabated almost to the end. She was active in other directions, especially as the vivacious organizer of the Society's annual dinners.

The greater part of the Society's library is the result of her enthusiasm and campaigns and is a testimony to and evidence of prodigious activity, even at her advanced age.

To afford assistance in the conduct of the library Mrs. Lillian M. Sanford was appointed assistant librarian in 1941. At the death of Miss Curry in 1944, Mrs. Sanford was elected Librarian, and served as such until 1950. Mrs. Faith Steck Daskam served as her very competent assistant Librarian 1944-1950. [Mrs. Daskam was for many years Librarian at the Soldiers' Home.] Her successors as Librarian have been Miss Colleen C. Armentrout 1950-51, and Miss Henrietta E. Lemon since 1951. The assistant librarians since, besides Mrs. Daskam, have been: Miss Lemon, 1950-51; and Richard Spurr, 1952-53.

The conduct of the library is a laborious and meticulous task, and, unremunerated as it has been, these librarians and their assistants have performed their duties faithfully and efficiently, and have earned the appreciation of the Society for their labors.



The size of the library has in the past fluctuated, between the varying number of new accessions and the disposal of duplicates. At present (December 1954), it is authentically stated to contain 1,485 bound volumes, together with many pamphlets, periodicals, and other unbound

material. Books sent for review in the *QUARTERLY* find their way into the library as soon as the review has been prepared, and all books so sent are given a critical review which is published as soon as space can be found in the magazine.

#### FORTY YEARS, 1912-1943

After a decade of trial and error, a preliminary formative period, the year 1912 may be taken as a turning or key point in the history of the National Genealogical Society. In that year the Society's *QUARTERLY* publication was established, which uninterruptedly exercised a stimulating influence on the proceedings and prestige of the Society. In that year also the constitution was revised. This stabilized the organization and set the pattern for the proceedings and activities which have been pursued during the succeeding four decades.

The details of the transactions of the Society in the various fields of its activity have been set forth in the preceding chapters. In general, these forty years, rounding out a half century of activities, have seen substantial progress and achievement by the Society. They have been characterized by serious and energetic research and by voluminous production and contributions of high quality in genealogical fields; by pleasant and harmonious relations of the membership, in a cooperative fellowship of kindred souls keenly devoted to common interests. As there is nothing sensational or dramatic about genealogical pursuits, and little to provoke personal controversy or arouse animosities, the course of the Society has been amicable and tranquil. The story of the first half century of the National Genealogical Society has been a record of a serious, cultured, and scholarly group diligently and forcefully working out their own special interests and problems.

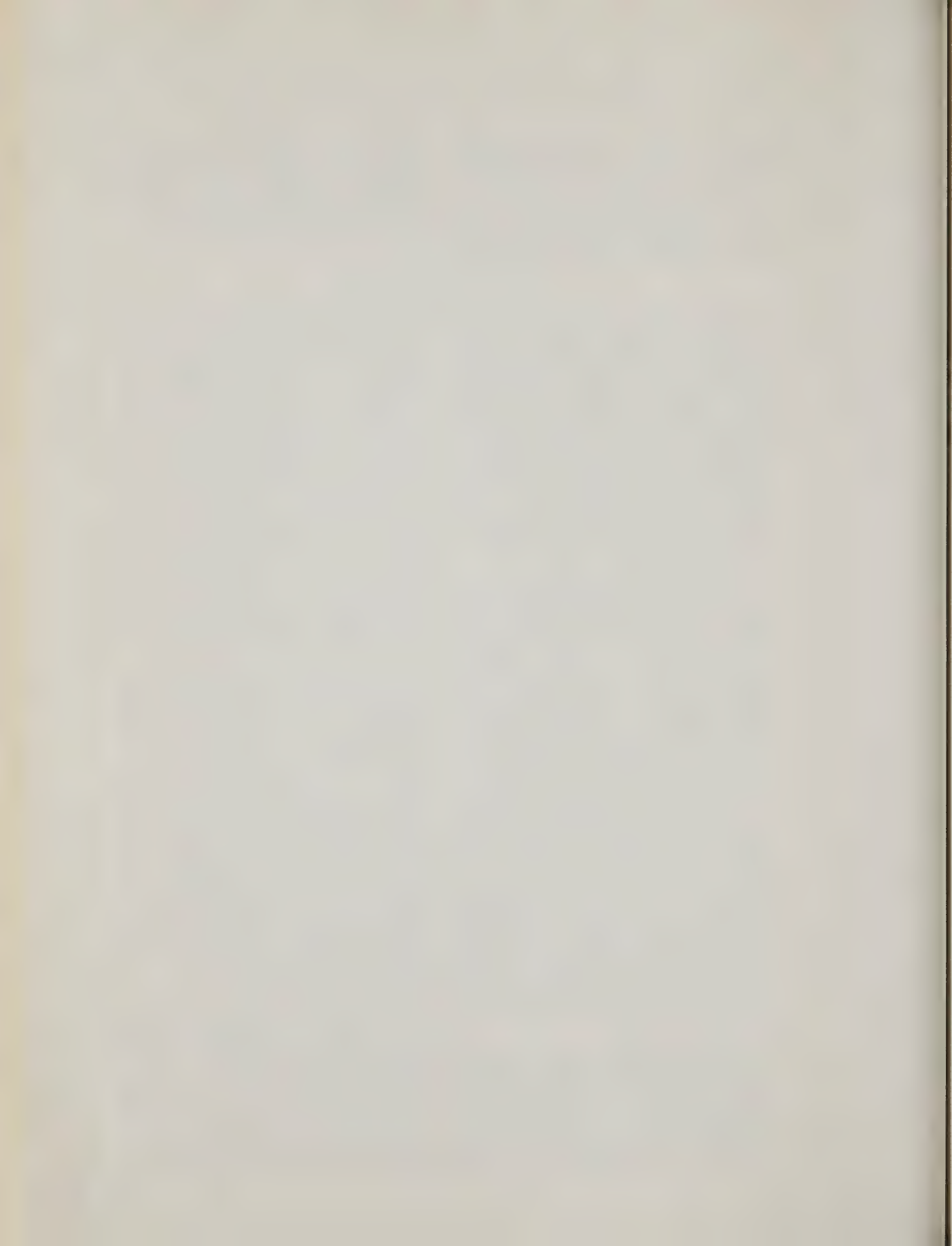
The establishment of auxiliary and subordinate State or local bodies or branches integrated into the fabric of the general organization was one of the chief objectives aimed at in the original formation of the Society. This implication was involved in the inclusion of the word

"National" in its name. That object has not been attained though still in the Society's plans; but the Society is nevertheless truly national in character. Its headquarters are located in the city of Washington, but its body is extended throughout the country; for years a majority of its members has been non-resident. Its membership is indiscriminately derived on an equal footing from all parts, of the country; its field and locale of research is nation-wide, and it can not in any sense be characterized as local in scope. In its standing and repute it is equal and coordinate with the great genealogical societies of the world; and the record of its activities and achievements amply merits the pride of its members and the respect of the intellectual world.

The membership of the Society has necessarily consisted of persons of superior culture and intellectual character, since those qualities are essential and ingrained in serious and competent genealogists. Various classes of the public, of both sexes, are represented—the professions, lawyers, physicians, engineers, scientists, writers, clergymen, teachers, army and navy officers, business men, retired individuals, important government personnel, members of Congress, and the like. Some of them have been eminent in their own special outside or professional fields of action. Many of the members have attained the highest distinction for the quality and extent of their researches and contributions to genealogy.

It has been by the efforts and activities of the individual members that, as in the case of other similar bodies, the National Genealogical Society has been built up and maintained. An ideal compilation and presentation of its history would therefore involve an analysis and study of the relations and influence of every member on its transactions and activities.





This would be impossible. While no one who possesses the enlightened interest and intellectual caliber to be a member of the Society can be classed as mediocre, there are naturally some who are more outstanding or distinguished in their literary output or their service to the Society, a detailed presentation of whose biographical careers would add to understanding of the course of the Society's history. As all gradations of ability are involved it would be invidious to pick out some of the more prominent of the members for biographic treatment in this historical sketch; and however interesting this might be, it would hardly be practicable within its limits. The records of the service of past officers and committee members will serve as some measure of their importance and eminence. However, there have been many members of equal merit who never sought or obtained office; and not every person elected to office may have been of superlative excellence.

A number of individual biographic sketches of various outstanding members of the Society, especially of deceased past officers, has been prepared in manuscript form, and are available if ever deemed desirable for independent publication, either singly and periodically or in collected form.

The chief activities by which the Society seeks its objective of promoting genealogical knowledge is through its *QUARTERLY* and other publications, and the presentation of formal papers in its regular meetings on pertinent subjects. In its publications has been presented in permanent and accessible form a great mass of solid, reliable, and authoritative information in the genealogical field. In its achievements and contributions thus published the Society is justly entitled to take pride and credit. The scholarly papers presented in the meetings by distinguished experts from outside the Society or its own members afford a wealth of important material, and when suitable for publication in the *QUARTERLY*, are frequently published either as the lead article or as "Proceedings, of the Society." Less formal discussions among the members effect much enlightenment. The meetings are pleasant social affairs, and promote the solidarity and morale of the

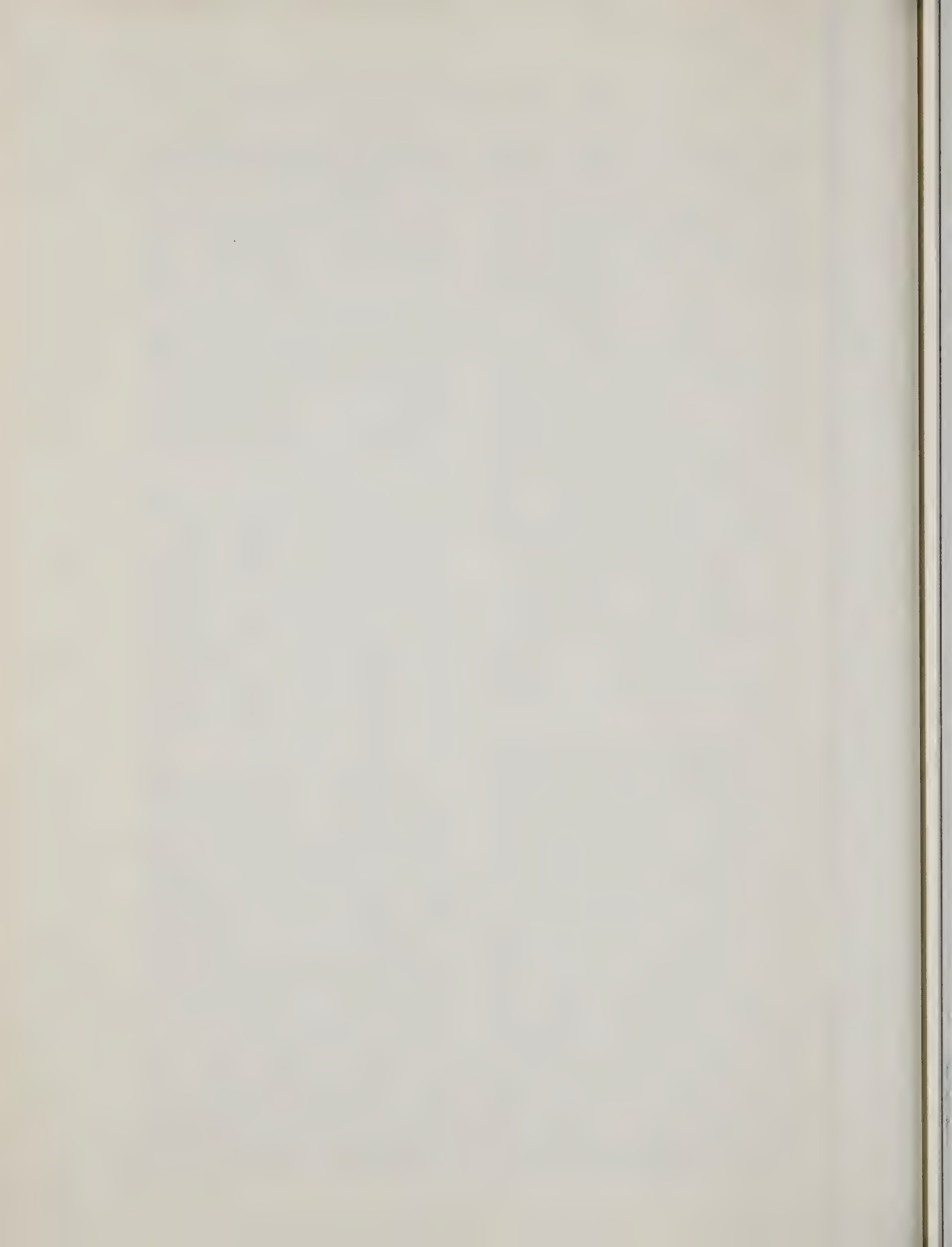
organization; and a general atmosphere and spirit are engendered in the membership favorable and stimulating to genealogical accomplishment.

The number of members who have attained the age of ninety years is rather noteworthy. Known instances of such have been: Miss Cora C. Curry, 1852-1944; Henry S. Jacoby, born 1857, still living at the age of 98 (1955); Francis A. St. Clair, (President 1916; resigned membership 1922), 1861-1951; and Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh, 1862-1952. The sample is small, but the proportion of nonagenarians has been three or four times that of the general population. Can it be that there is something in the placid way of life or mental outlook of genealogists that is conducive to long survival?

Tribute might here be paid to a highly esteemed associate, Miss Mary C. Oursler, who in duration of membership ranks as the senior member of the Society. Of the members at the time of her election in 1910 she is the only survivor, and she is the only one who has been a member during this entire 40-year period. In addition she is remarkable as having throughout this period rendered continuous and uninterrupted official and committee service to the Society. The next known living members in seniority are Dr. Arthur Adams and Mrs. Gaius M. Brumbaugh, elected in 1913.

The financial history of the Society has not been one of opulence. Its income has been modest, yet by careful and capable management it has been sufficient for its immediate needs, and respectable results have been obtained from the resources at hand, for which the officials responsible merit appreciation and commendation. The recent business manager, Mr. Leroy W. Tilton, deserves special mention for his able service in this connection. The principal expenditures have been for publication, and the ample bulk of the published volumes of the *QUARTERLY* represents a substantial and rewarding output for its expenditures.

The Society is in urgent need of a permanent building or quarters of its own, for a meeting place and housing for its activities and its library and other property. This need has been keenly felt and expressed for many years; and from time



to time consideration has been given to the acquisition of the needed home, but with little progress. A vigorous movement to obtain headquarters has recently been instituted by Dr. Herbert F. Sever-smith, and an organization has been set up to conduct the enterprise. The initial task will be the difficult one of raising the necessary funds. It is to be hoped that this project will have a successful outcome, and be a paramount event in the history of the next half century of the Society's existence.

The year 1953 is being especially celebrated as the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Genealogical Society, its "Jubilee Year". Happily it is headed as Jubilee President during the year by the originator of the anniversary project, Mr. Milton Rubincam, the most recent of the many former presidents and other officers whose enthusiasm and energy have helped to build up and maintain the Society in its excellent status. In November, at the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the original constitution, appropriate commemorative exercises were conducted in celebration of the completion of the Society's first half century of existence. This part of the celebration took the form of a banquet on 7 November 1953 [full particulars of which appeared in the March 1954 *QUARTERLY*].

Editor

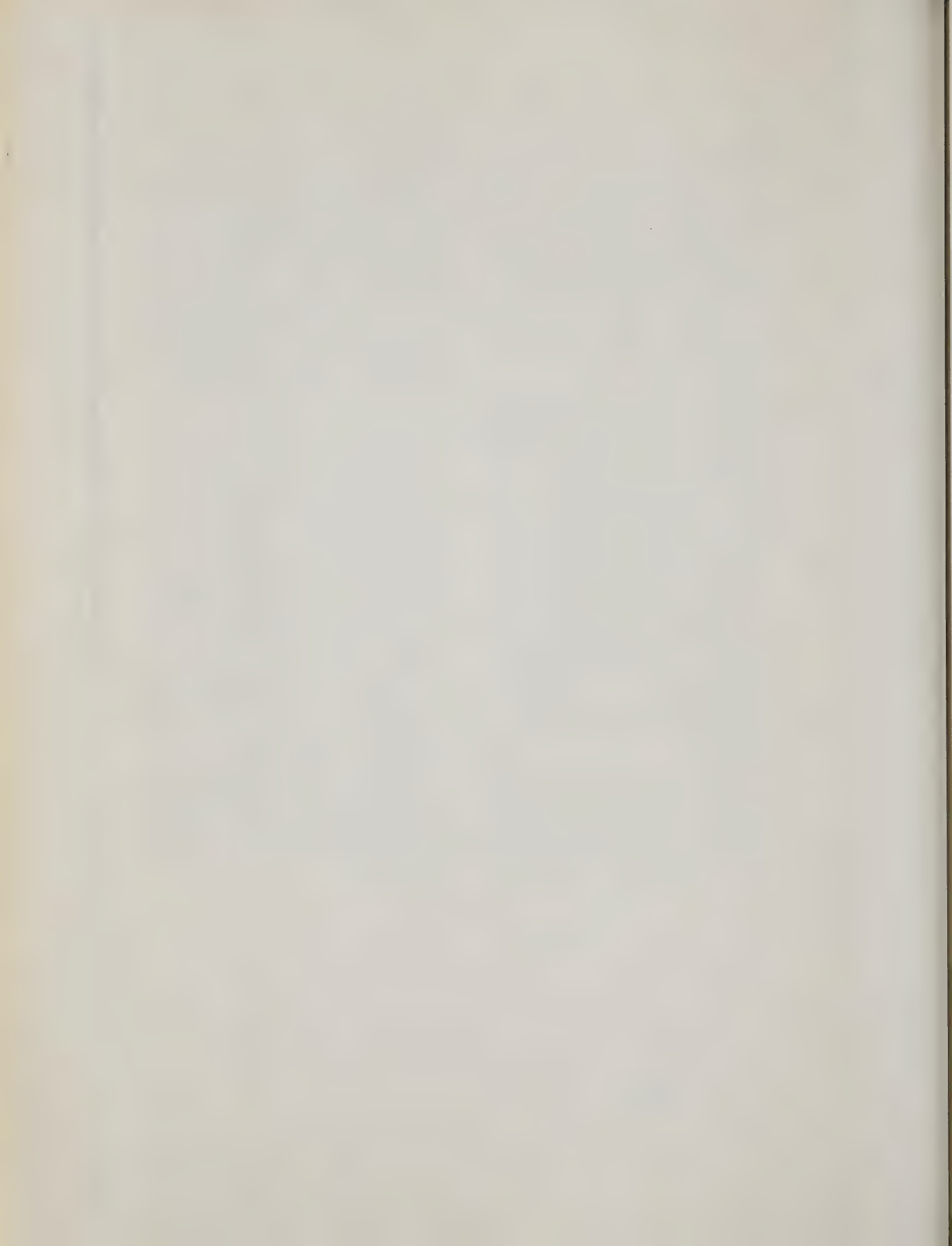
[The June 1954 *QUARTERLY* carried Memorial pages to Dr. John B. Nichols, author of this History who died 22 February 1954, aged 87, and to Mr. Max E. Hoyt who prepared the Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications, de-

ceased, March 30, 1954, aged "not yet 56".]

That half century, as pointed out above, has been replete with accomplishment. It was a happy communion of kindred spirits with fascinating common interests. It harbored and stimulated genealogical geniuses of brilliant aptitude and productivity. With limited resources and equipment its members have produced and contributed to genealogical knowledge a large volume of material of the highest quality and value. It has achieved high standing and prestige, on a par with other organizations of its kind.

Although the half-century date marks a point in its history and the conclusion of this historical sketch, it is not a terminal period or stopping-place in the progress of the Society. An instant or point of time is never stationary, and never has extension. Time is in constant and steady movement, with never a pause. "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on." A stopping or standstill means stagnation, while progress implies continuous movement and change; and the Society is not stagnant. Rather, this occasion may be taken as a new starting-point, from an advanced base fortified by experience, with added impetus to progress, and renewed inspiration of the spirit and stimulus to effort. The National Genealogical Society starts upon its second half-century, its future, with the tradition of past success and prestige, and the confident purpose and promise of continued and augmented activity and achievement.





# National Genealogical Society

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## GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS OF

The National Genealogical Society has available for sale the following publications:

- No. 3. *The Development of Early Emigrant Trails.* By Marcus W. Lewis. Out of print, but the Map is still available at 25c to members and libraries, and at 35c to others.
- No. 4. *Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Tax Lists, 1751, 1756, 1757, 1758.* By Dr. Albert H. Gerberich and Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh. \$1.00 per copy.
- No. 7. *Origin of Heraldry in Europe (Also of Miscellaneous Surnames and Insignia);* 2nd Edition; By Col. Calvin Kephart; Price \$2.50.
- No. 8. *Index, Volumes XXIII to XXVI, National Genealogical Society Quarterly.* \$1.00.
- No. 9. *Long Island Genealogical Source Materials,* by Herbert F. Seversmith. 35c to members; 50c to others.
- No. 10. *Reconstruction of the 1790 Census of Delaware;* By Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist, Dover, Delaware; Price \$3.00; \$2.25 to members.
- No. 11. *A Yankee in King George's Archives;* By Kenneth M. Ellis; Price, \$1.00; 75 cents to members.
- No. 12. *Dutch Systems in Family Naming—New York and New Jersey;* By Rosalie Fellows Bailey, F. A. S. G.; Price \$1.00; 75 cents to members.
- No. 13. *History of National Genealogical Society, 1903-1953;* By Dr. John B. Nichols, M.D.; Price \$1.00; 75 cents to members.

National Genealogical Society  
1921 Sunderland Place, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

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